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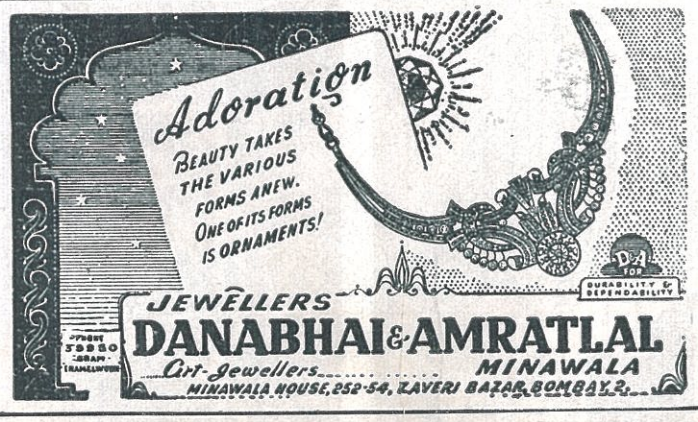
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Good, old Chacha Nehru has now given us another New Year gift. Finding that Chachaji was away at Bhilai, the parcel was opened in the Lok Sabha, on December 16, 1957, by no less a person than Mr. Feroze Gandhi, the brilliant but very inquisitive son-in-law of Prime Minister Nehru. Here is what Mr. Feroze Gandhi found in the gift parcel:

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, a mutiny in my mind has compelled me to raise this debate. When things of such magnitude, as I shall describe to you later, occur, silence becomes a crime. That public expenditure shall be subject to severest public debate is a healthy tradition, especially so in an era of growing public enterprise. There is nothing to be ashamed of, if a public undertaking has made a mistake, if some people have made a mistake. We should confess it. Parliament must exercise vigilance and control over the biggest and most powerful financial institution it has created, the Life Insurance Corporation of India, whose misapplication of public funds we shall scrutinise today.

"Much as I have tried to, I have failed to understand how the Life Insurance Corporation became a willing party to this questionable transaction with the mystery-man of India's business underworld."

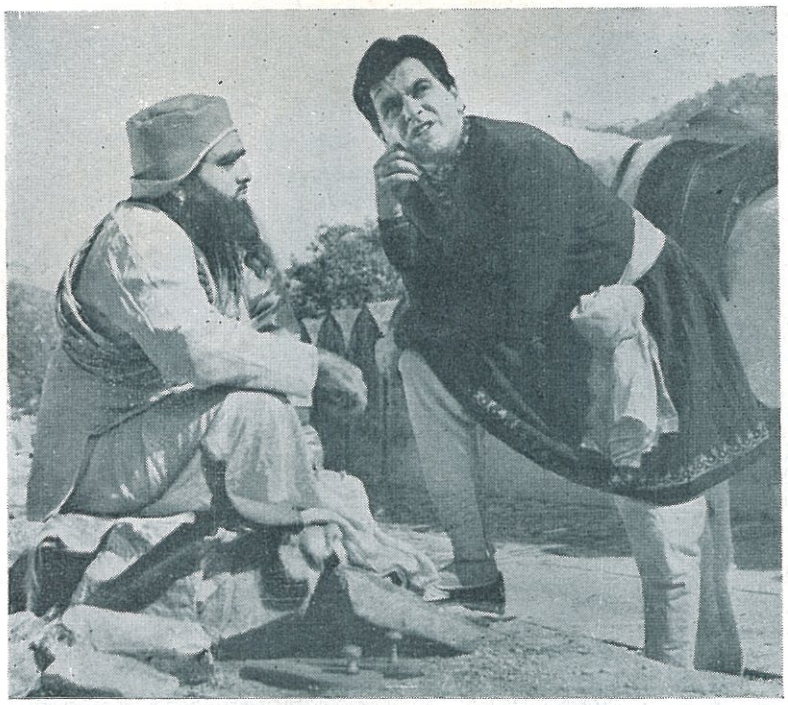
An Hon. Member: "Who is that?"

Shri Feroze Gandhi: "Mr. Speaker, there is going to be some sharp shooting and hard hitting in the House today, because when I hit, I hit hard and expect to be hit harder. I am fully conscious that the other side is also equipped with plentiful supplies of TNT."

An Hon. Member: "TT".

Shri Feroze Gandhi: "A friend of mine in this House, Sir, mentioned to me that the Finance Minister's statement was well fortified. Let me see, if I can breach the ramparts at the very first shot. It appears the Life Insurance Corporation has committed a breach of privilege of this House by causing to be placed on the Table of this House a statement withholding important information. May I know why one important transaction with Sri Mundhra has been kept a secret from the House? In the absence of this vital information the statement of investments be-

Is this Shyama or "Shama", the flame in which romantic moths burn themselves in blind love? This beautiful and graceful artiste gives an exciting performance in "Bhabhi", a tear-squeezing domestic tale produced by AVM.



Whenever Dilip Kumar hits a wall and there is a girl behind the wall, he needs some spiritual adviser. This time he has found a bearded one for the purposes of "Kohinoor", a thrilling tale of love produced by Dr. Sinha.

comes worthless, not even worth the paper on which it is cyclostyled.

"You, Mr. Speaker, are the guardian of the rights of this House, and it is for you to decide this issue.

"On the 29th November the Finance Minister stated in the House:

> "The question is not one of favouring one particular individual or group, but seeing that the Corporation benefits and the policy holders, ultimately benefit by the investment made."

"I ask, was it in fulfilment of this policy that the Corporation purchased by direct negotiation from an individual, Sri Mundhra, shares worth Rs. one crore 25 lakhs in his concerns on the 25th June, 1957? In March, in April, in June, in July—July is the one which the statement has left out—in August, in September, for six months in this year and on 19 different occasions the Corporation purchased Shares of the Mundhra Group for a sum of Rs. one crore 56 lakhs. If this is not favouring and financing one particular individual or group, then what else is it?

"The Finance Minister in his reply to another question on the 29th November, stated:

"They", meaning the Corporation, "wanted to augment their shares....."

"And, whenever the Corporation wanted to augment its shares Sri Mundhra was always there waiting to oblige, so much so that on one occasion the Life Insurance Corporation transacted business on a day when both the Calcutta and Bombay Stock Exchanges were closed."

An Hon. Member: "On what day?"

Sri Feroze Gandhi: "Look at the dates and then find out the day. To my own question: 'May I know whether it is a fact that a few months ago some shares were purchased at a higher price than the market price of those very shares on the particular day?' the Finance Minister gave an emphatic reply:

"I have been told that no such thing happened."

"What does the statement reveal? According to the quotations on the Calcutta Stock Exchange given by the Minister himself, on the 24th there is an over-payment of Rs. 77,000. According to the quotations on the 25th, given by the Hon. Minister in the statement, there is an excess payment of about Rs. three lakhs. What are the results of these augmentations?

"Such was the stability of those concerns, such was the soundness of the investment, so stable was the man with whom the Corporation had struck 19 deals, that within two months of their last augmentation, in September, the Government had to appoint administrators and directors in these concerns.

"This is not investment. This is a conspiracy to beguile the Corporation of its funds.

"From the Finance Minister's statement it would appear as if these investments were made through the open market. The truth is that this was a negotiated deal with Sri Mundhra himself. In the case of such bulk purchases the market value dwindles into insignificance.

"Taking into consideration that no sane investor would have touched most of these shares with a tadpole's tail, I am left much against my will to the sad conclusion that this was a device to help Sri Mundhra who happened to be in financial difficulties at that time, as I shall prove later. The sacred savings of the insured were misused for this purpose, and if I may say so, almost gambled away.

I shall now scrutinise the share purchases made on the 25th June and Mr. Speaker, I shall confine myself to an analysis of the purchase of the 25th June alone. The purchases totalled Rs. one crore, 24 lakhs, 44 thousand. Obviously, all the inspiration to augment their shares could not have burst forth suddenly on the 25th. Deep thought must have been given to this investment. Prevailing prices of these shares on the Stock Exchange must have been thoroughly scrutinised. Balance-sheets must have been looked into. I am sorry, Sir, I made a mistake. Some of these concerns have not published their balance-sheets since 1955. I do not know what procedure the Corporation adopted in the absence of balance-sheets to arrive at a conclusion as to the value of the shares they were purchasing.

"Let us have a look round the Calcutta Stock Exchange, armed with the same authority as that of the Finance Minister, the official report of the Stock Exchange. The 25th was a Tuesday, 24th was a Monday, 22nd and 23rd were Saturday and Sunday when the Stock Exchange

was closed. Let us see how much less the Corporation would have paid had they concluded the transactions, say, on the 21st. The answer is, Rs. ten lakhs 73 thousand. These very shares could have been purchased according to the market value on the 21st, and the quotations are, from the official report of the Calcutta Stock Exchange, for Rs. ten lakhs 73 thousand *less*. But let us move a little backward and see how much *less* would they have paid on the 20th. Again, according to the same source, the official report of the Stock Exchange, it is Rs. nine lakhs 42 thousand *less*. On the 19th, Rs. 11 lakhs 52 thousand *less;* on the 18th, Rs. 13 lakhs 47 thousand *less;* on the 17th, that is Monday—Monday week—Rs. 13 lakhs 62 thousand *less*. My figures do not seem to be creating much impression..... (Expunged as ordered by the Chair).....I am going to jump one week from the 17th to give you an idea of how much *less* the Corporation would have paid had the purchases been made on the 10th June at prices prevailing and quoted at the Calcutta Stock Exchange. The Corporation could have purchased these very shares on the 10th for Rs. 20 lakhs 83 thousand *less* than what was paid on the 25th June. I have made no calculations of prices before the 10th. My nerves gave way.

"Occasionally you, Mr. Speaker, are very helpful to Members, and on the 29th....."

Mr. Speaker: "The Hon. Member also is a Member."

Sri Feroze Gandhi: "You are very helpful to Members, and I think you understood what was in the minds of Members when they were groping in the dark and asking questions. You clarified the position. You, Mr. Speaker, said:

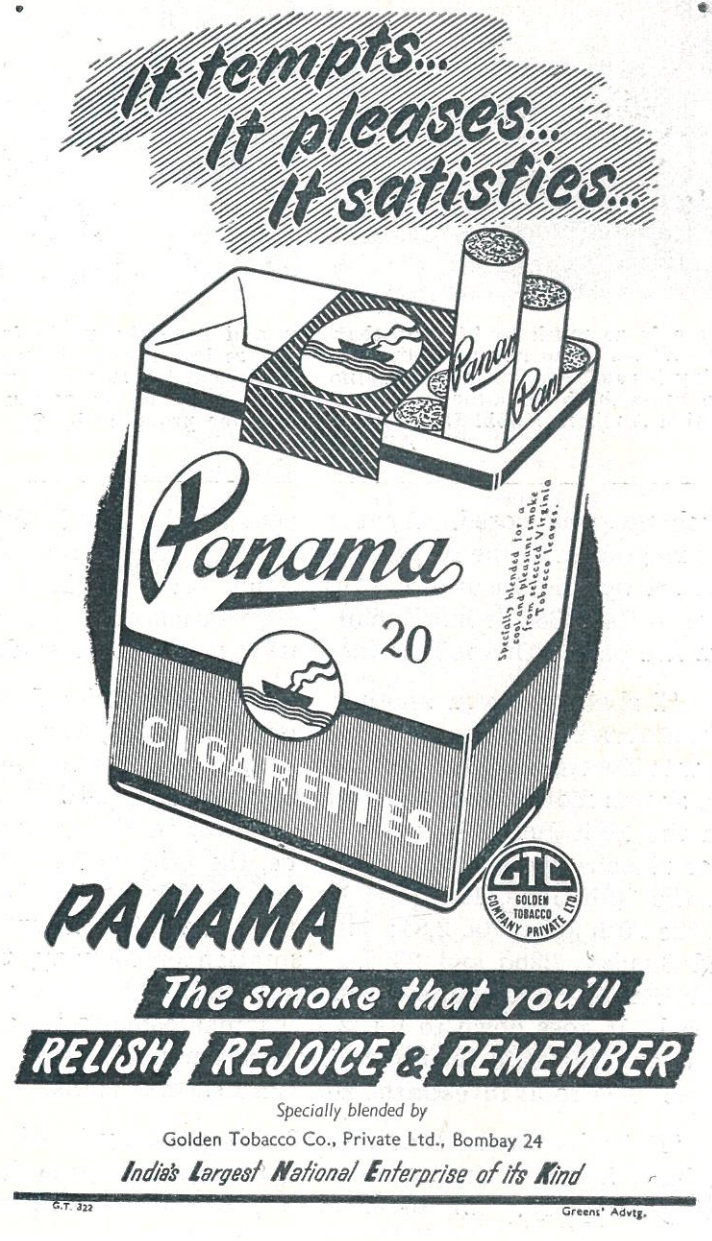
> "The Hon. Member wants to know whether to push up the falling prices of the shares of this company, either the Government or this Corporation went to the aid by investment in shares."

"Mr. Speaker, you let the cat out of the bag. It had never occurred to me. But I gave very serious thought to all that you said. This is exactly what happened. For purchases effected on the 25th, the prices were artificially created by crude market manipulations on the 24th, when all of a sudden, all these shares reached their peak. On Monday, the peak was reached. On Tuesday the purchases were made.

"Let us see, as I shall prove to you and to the House, how it was worked up. What happened on the very next day, Tuesday? The peak had passed. The downward trend began and as on Friday, the 13th of December, the Corporation's investment had depreciated by about Rs. 37 lakhs as against the total investment of Rs. one crore 24 lakhs 44 thousand.

"This, it may be argued, is not a loss, because, I have purchased shares and as long as I do not sell them there is no loss. Actually, it would be difficult to argue that way, because, the investment has depreciated and what would happen when the actuarial valuation takes place? An insurance actuary will take the market value of those shares; not what you have paid for it. Therefore, the insured will lose heavily. The actual amount by which the capital investment has depreciated will be much more, because the total investment is about Rs. one crore 56 lakhs. I have only taken into account Rs. one crore 24 lakhs odd in the calculation of Rs. 37 lakhs.

"Now, how was the market manipulated? Let us take the case of one concern—Angelo Brothers. Mr. Speaker, on the 17th of June, the price of the share which Angelo Brothers quoted at the Calcutta Stock Exchange was Rs. 16.87. On the 18th, Rs. 16.87; on the 19th, Rs. 16.87; on the 20th, Rs. 16.87; on the 21st, Rs. 16.87. On the 22nd and 23rd—Saturday and Sunday—the Stock



There is so much to hide at that age and save the world from temptation. Men never realize but there are less sins in the world today because women are often not in a mood for them. Nutan, the heart-throb of millions, brings new modesty to the screen in "Kabhi Andhera Kabhi Ujala", a social theme produced by Sardar Ajit Singh.

Exchange was closed. What happens on the 24th? With the ringing in of the Angelus on the 24th, Angelo Brothers booked by the Insurance Corporation for Rs. 20.25 per share—Rs. 3.38 far more than the quotation on the previous five days. This is how the market was manipulated.

"I shall give you another example—the Osler Lamp Manufacturing Company. It is a very interesting company. It was floated in 1947—ten years ago. Let us see how the shares moved from the 10th June up to the 24th June. On the 10th June, the price is Rs. 2.78, in the Calcutta Stock Exchange. On the 17th June, the price is Rs. 2.81; on the 18th June, Rs. 2.81; on the 19th June, Rs. 2.87; on the 20th June, Rs. 2.84; on the 21st, Rs. 2.84; Saturday and Sunday, 22nd and 23rd. Quotation on Monday, the 24th, Rs. 4. What happens on the 24th? The prices collapsed. It goes down to Rs. 2.87. It has come to its original and the Life Insurance Corporation paid Rs. 4 for share. The total investment runs into several lakhs.

"But what is the condition of this company in which we have invested the money—the Osler Lamp Manufacturing Company? The dividend on preference shares has not been paid since August 1949. No dividend has been paid on ordinary shares for the last ten years, that is, ever since the company was floated. And the Life Insurance Corporation was looking all round for a healthy investment. This is the kind of concern that they put their money in.

"Now, I come to the British India Corporation. The British India Corporation, in which on one day, the 25th June, they invested Rs. 42 lakhs, paid a dividend of 1¼ per cent in 1954, nil in 1955 and 2 per cent for the year ending 1956.

"This will work out at about 1.87 per cent on the Corporation's investment. Rs. 42 lakhs were invested, and they were handed over to this Corporation on a return of 1.87 per cent. This is what we have done with the monies of the insured."

Mr. Speaker: "What about the price of this share?"

Sri Feroze Gandhi: "The prices have fallen. If you like, I can give the quotation. But it will take time.

"The British India Corporation, once a tower of strength to the city of Kanpur, is in a state of collapse One of its mills is either closed or there is notice of closure. It is in a state of collapse. The ruins are a testimony to its pristine glory.

"The Corporation has an Investment Board. May I know why the Chairman did not consult the Investment Board before the investment of 25th June was made? Rs. one crore 24 lakhs is not a small amount. I doubt very much if the Chairman has got the sole right to go about investing these huge sums of money in any manner he likes on his own authority, without the consent of the investment committee? Is it not a fact that the Board was presented with a fait accompli and the members of the Board took strong objection to the manner in which the Corporation's funds had been frittered away? I would like the Finance Minister to tell me if I am wrong and I shall correct what I have stated.

"On the 29th November, the Finance Minister stated that these shares were not spurious. What does 'spurious' mean? I do not know whether you will have to rule it out again. That is the first word given here and you have once declared it unparliamentary. You can remove it from the record if you feel so later. 'Spurious' means, according to the Chamber's Dictionary—and the Oxford Dictionary agrees with it—"bastard, illegitimate, not genuine, false". No one in this House said these shares were all these. Nobody had it in mind. I do not know how the Finance Minister said it; probably he used it in its general sense.

"The point is this: Was the financial instability of these concerns known to the Government and to the Corporation? Was it known? Did they know that this money was going to be locked up in unstable financial concerns? It is here that I have an important clue contained in the report of the Textile Commissioner on the working of the

Always plotting, even while resting in bed! Some women have worms in their heads which never let them rest. Kuldip Kaur, an intriguing personality, brings new sensation to the screen in "Ek Saal", a thrilling romance produced by Goel Cine Corporation.

British India Corporation and its subsidiaries and I shall read out the relevant portion from the report. I quote:

> "The State Bank of India has recently demanded the mills to mortgage the fixed assets of the British India Corporation also as a security for the hypothecation loan. This is rather an unusual step and apparently this is due to the banker having lost confidence in the Corporation."

"The State Bank of India had lost confidence in the British India Corporation. The Textile Commissioner further states:

> "In fact, in the directors' meeting held on 23-3-1957, it was reported by the Deputy Managing Director, Mr. Powell, that when he contacted the Chairman and the Managing Director of the State Bank of India as also the Chairman of the Reserve Bank of India in connection with the application to enhance the loan facilities from Rs. 1.25 crores to Rs. 1.50 crores—i.e. Rs. 25 lakhs—for the Kanpur Sugar Works Limited, a company launched by a subsidiary of the B.I.C., the three senior officials of the State Bank had expressed their concern with the financial position of the Corporation's group."

"The three senior officials of the State Bank and the Reserve Bank were concerned about the financial position of the group, and what happened? Why did I say that I have a clue? The N.I.D.C. also refused a loan somewhere in the month of February or March. The State Bank of India and the Reserve Bank refused help in the month of March and in the month of March the Life Insurance Corporation started investing money in these companies. Twenty-third March is very significant, because the financial condition of the Mundhra groups was becoming worse and worse. The State Bank and the Reserve Bank refused help and the N.I.D.C. refused help because of the unsoundness of the concern. But the Life Insurance Corporation was only too willing and rushed in. The Textile Commissioner's survey concluded on the 10th June and the Life Insurance Corporation, a fortnight later, recklessly invested its funds in these very concerns.

"I shall read out to the House an extract from the 1955 balance-sheet of the British India Corporation. Directors' report on the accounts:

> "Mr. Mundhra has taken a keen interest in the affairs of the Corporation and is lending every support to the directors and the management in their endeavours to ameliorate the condition."

"Another paragraph begins: "The results for the year are most disappointing."

"If the Corporation, before it had invested its funds, had had a look at these balance sheets, had seen what the condition of the Corporation was, they would never have touched it, as I said, with a tadpole's tail.

"Now let us see the seriousness of the entire transaction. Mr. Speaker, where are the scrips of these shares? Did the Corporation receive the share scrips before payment was made on the 25th June? That is a very important point. Or, did they make payment without having the share scrips in their possession? I would like to have that clarified. Have they even today in their possession all these shares? I would like that to be clarified too, and if they have, have they got the genuine scrips?

Sri Mahavir Tyagi: "What?"

Sri Feroze Gandhi: "There is nothing to laugh about. Have they got the genuine scrips? My information is that there are on the market originals, duplicates and also forged scrips of these very shares. The House would like to know which variety the Corporation has got.

"I hope I have established collusion between the Life Insurance Corporation of India and Sri Mundhra. I have, I hope, established a conspiracy in which public funds were wrongfully employed for financing the interests of an individual at the cost of the insured. To me this discussion is a measure of the strength of democracy. We do not hang people. We do not chop off their necks, but we can make their existence pretty

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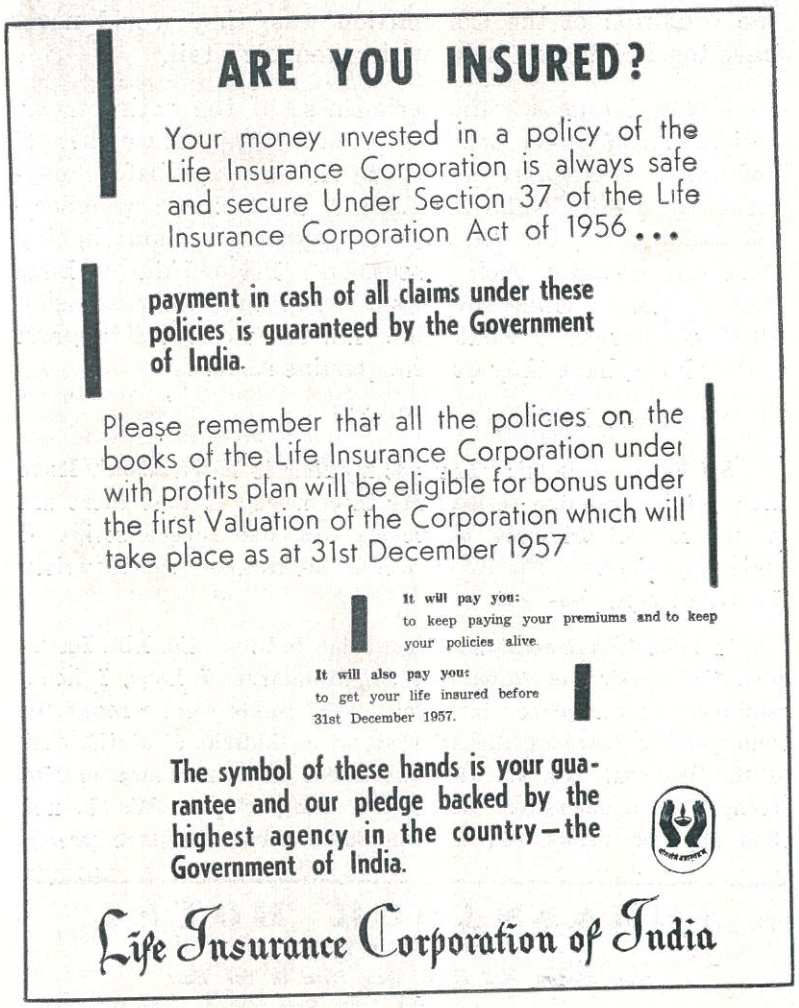
difficult. If we cannot knock off their heads, what can we do? Let me see if I can secure by pressure of public debate that which I have failed to achieve by peaceful negotiation.

"I demand that Government institute an enquiry into this questionable transaction. There is already a precedent for such action. When charges less serious than this were levelled against the Industrial Finance Corporation, the then Finance Minister, Mr. Deshmukh, appointed a Committee and the Chairman of the committee was a Member of the Opposition. Let us hope that our Finance Minister will follow the example of his predecessor."

But the Finance Minister, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, is not anxious to set up an immediate inquiry in the manner that Mr. Feroze Gandhi wants.

Instead, the Life Insurance Corporation of India, published the following advertisement in leading newspapers of India, on December 24, 1957, to buy up the silence of the newspapers and, perhaps, to beguile the public further.


ARE YOU INSURED?
Your money invested in a policy of the Life Insurance Corporation is always safe and secure Under Section 37 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act of 1956...
payment in cash of all claims under these policies is guaranteed by the Government of India.
Please remember that all the policies on the books of the Life Insurance Corporation under with profits plan will be eligible for bonus under the first Valuation of the Corporation which will take place as at 31st December 1957
It will pay you:
to keep paying your premiums and to keep your policies alive.
It will also pay you:
to get your life insured before 31st December 1957.
The symbol of these hands is your guarantee and our pledge backed by the highest agency in the country—the Government of India.
Life Insurance Corporation of India

This advertisement gives us a fresh assurance, a superfluous guarantee in a honest government, that money invested in a life policy is always safe and secure under Section 37 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act of 1956. But according to Mr. Feroze Gandhi, Rs. 1 crore and 56 lakhs have already gone into Mr. Mundhra's concerns.

Explaining the symbol of the Corporation, the advertisement states: "The symbol of these hands is your guarantee and our pledge backed by the highest agency in the country—The Government of India."

Ha! Ha! The highest agency, indeed! An agency of corruption that gave us scandals galore!

After the public exposure by Mr. Feroze Gandhi, we honestly feel, as old insurance advisers to our readers, that it is no longer safe to invest a copper paisa in a policy with the Life Insurance Corporation of India, seeing that there is "collusion" and "conspiracy" to gamble away public funds—life's savings of poor, honest people.

The very fact that a huge advertisement (10" x 3 col) had to be published in various newspapers—immediately in the wake of the exposure—giving new assurances and guarantees makes the whole business dangerously shady and suspicious. Mr. Feroze Gandhi has been fortunately able to put his finger at least on one transaction. There may be hundreds more with crores of rupees gone out of sight already. Anything is possible in a government proved corrupt again and again during the last ten years.

We sincerely advise our readers not to be misled by such impressive advertisements, nor by the supporting comment of most of the papers where these advertisements are published. Newspapers in India have no conscience. They are only instruments of profit. They often misguide the public to get advertisement revenue from the Government.

Unless we know what is the actual *cash balance* in the hands of the Life Insurance Corporation of India today—most of the so-called securities probably being as useless as Mundhra's scrips—in our opinion, it is not safe to continue to pay the premiums even on current policies. We, therefore, advise our readers to pay up their present policies or obtain cash surrender values immediately. 'A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush' is an old practical proverb and this is the place where it applies most forcibly. We have already received a number of complaints that the Life Insurance Corporation has not been paying claims promptly and the widows of the policy holders have been stranded. A Corporation that has lakhs of rupees to pay to a Mundhra on a Sunday in a shady deal cannot possibly have money left to pay the widows of dead policy holders. The exposure by Mr. Feroze Gandhi has been a great eye-opener and after this if people still rush to trust the Life Insurance Corporation of India with their hard-earned savings, they have only themselves to blame.

By exposing this huge fraud in our biggest citadel of public savings and security, Mr. Feroze Gandhi has rendered a great service to the nation. He has already many glorious feathers of public service in his cap and when people ask that anxious question: "Who after Nehru?", we would answer: "Why not Feroze Gandhi?"

Feroze is certainly more honest and intelligent than many professional Congress scoundrels dancing round Nehru and giving a good man a bad name that will unnecessarily stink through history.

24-12-1957 Baburao Patel

Editor's Mail

(In this section, the editor himself replies to queries from the readers. As thousands of letters are received every month—some anxious and several frivolous—it is neither possible nor convenient to attend to all. Selected letters are usually treated in an informative and humorous strain and no offence is meant to anyone.)

Once the worm of thought enters a woman's head, it always keeps popping out of her eyes. A woman can never keep a thought out of her face whatever may be the design behind her thought. Men fail because they don't catch the thought but try to solve the design. Jayashree returns to the screen in "Mehndi", in a new bridal attire. This romantic tale is directed by S. M. Yusuf for Pushpa Pictures.

PREM C. SINHA (Arrah)

What, in your opinion, is the essential difference between Gandhi and Marx?

Marx wrote round the stomach of man, Gandhiji touched the soul of man.

Can I invite Suraiya, Nalini Jaywant and Nutan to Arrah?

That will be inviting bankruptcy for three generations.

Are you aware of bogus ration shops of the Congress Government?

I have even met bogus food ministers and commissioners.

How is the tourist traffic in India these days?

We don't get many paying guests. We mostly get people who come to dinner.

How do you co-exist with those ducks in the neighbourhood?

In their quack I hear the bark of my dogs. Any sound will become a nuisance till you love it as your own.

I want to know your considered view on Israel?

Israel is the only oasis of civilization in the desert that is Arabia. It will one day become a shrine for the pilgrimage of intellectuals.

I am long tormented by the sickness of heart that hope deferred provokes?

Read "Letters of Swami Vivekananda" published by Advaita Ashram. If this book does not make a man out of you, then don't burden this soil of saints with the dust of a coward.

Aldous Huxley does not enter into my cranium. What to do?

Why do you turn a factory into a godown to store imported stuff? Manufacture your own thought. Huxley did that and that is why you are after his goods. Toying with another man's thought is denying to your mind its fundamental freedom.

Do women go in for bearded men?

Even bears have their ladies.

How has a 'Padma Vibhushan' escaped Prithviraj so far?

He won't miss it. Worse junk has been decorated.

Does the memory of your mother bring tears in your eyes?

No. She was whisked away before the water from her milk could rise to my eyes.

Does a saint lead a quiet life?

Did Swami Vivekananda lead a quiet life? He woke up those who have been dead for hundreds of years.

I know an I.A.S. officer who is a devoted baby-sitter.

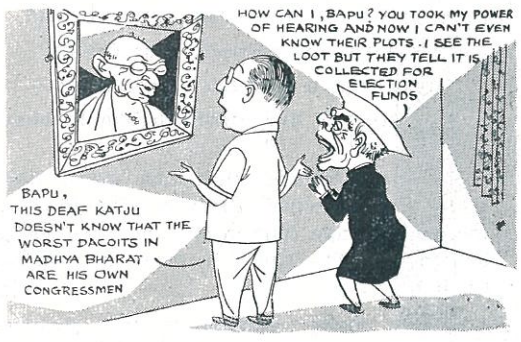
His wife must be going out to fix his promotions.

When does an Income Tax Officer rush to an astrologer?

When he is suspended for taking a bribe.

How do you react when there is a news of waste of public funds?

I ask Gandhiji why he did not leave behind a little of his character with the freedom that he gave us.


HOW CAN I, BAPU? YOU TOOK MY POWER OF HEARING AND NOW I CAN'T EVEN KNOW THEIR PLOTS. I SEE THE LOOT BUT THEY TELL IT IS COLLECTED FOR ELECTION FUNDS
BAPU, THIS DEAF KATJU DOESN'T KNOW THAT THE WORST DACOITS IN MADHYA BHARAT ARE HIS OWN CONGRESSMEN

There is every possibility of a third World War. Do you agree?

You'll be in the thick of it in 1961.

Kashmir, I am led to believe, is a land of milk and honey?

Yes, both imported from India.

The State must punish severely anyone threatening to burn the Constitution?

And what must the State do to those who keep on amending it? Anything changing so often cannot be sacrosanct.

When will the dacoit menace end in Madhya Bharat?

Only when a couple of hundred local Congressmen are put in jail.

Is Israel a good neighbour?

Israel is the right neighbour for Arabs.

SUBHASH J. RELE (Bombay)

Why does K. N. Singh look sleepy?

You must have seen him in the last week of the month. See him in the Units-week.

If I acquire your brains?

You'll inherit my struggle.

May I try an Anglo-Indian girl?

Do. An Anglo-Indian girl is the best incentive for hard work. I bought my first car to take an Anglo-Indian girl for picnics.

Some smell a poet in you?

One can't escape that smell when the pockets are empty.

What do you do with your sins?

I hand them over to my enemies for framing them for public exhibition.

Have you caught any bootleggers?

Why should I? I am not a policeman.

Best thing about a brothel?

Villages have many strange characters which only make our village life more colourful. Om Prakash has evidently brought some disturbance into this well-behaved family in "Bhabhi", a domestic tale produced by AVM.

There is no hypocrisy in a brothel. You get a naked view of necessity.

"I am also guilty to some extent of making too many speeches," says Nehru?

Guilty to some extent? The man is worse than a woman in the use of his tongue.

R. THIRUNARAYANAN (Chidambaram)

While speaking at the Youth Festival in Delhi, Nehru attacked the religious marks on the forehead.

Nehru was right. These trade-marks of caste are disgusting relics of our bell-ringing religion. They brought only slavery to our country. Even God cannot write a new destiny on those painted foreheads unless we break the shackles of form, ceremonial and priestcraft. There is neither religion nor Hinduism in those painted signboards.

AYYA YO, YAN KANMANI, NEVER ASK A BRAHMIN THAT QUESTION. I WORSHIP YOUR FEET MORE THAN THE LORD'S. I COME TO SANCTIFY YOUR PERSON
OH, MASTER, WITH THAT HOLY MARK ON YOUR FOREHEAD, WHY DO YOU COME TO A PROSTITUTE'S HOUSE

V. L. NARAYANA (Howrah)

Do the C.I.D.s open your letters?

What if they do. They will only read a sermon on patriotism.

How could a Communist like Dange take his bath daily at the Gandhi Swimming Pool?

Revenge! Dange would like to use something belonging to the Congressmen without paying for it.

What is the religion of Marilyn Monroe?

A woman who lent her body to a calendar can have only food as her religion.

I am learning Bengali from a sweet sixteen?

There is honey in that language with which great souls like Ramakrishna Paramhansa and Vivekananda sweetened the lives of millions. You can make a beginning by worshipping your teacher.

No one gives me respect these days?

Why worry, if you have self-respect?

A true Muslim like Mehboob should have four wives but.....?

He has two and that has given him high-blood pressure. Only a 'Muslim' like me can manage four in a home. Mehboob has to pray five times to keep the two of them quiet.

Why do many journalists feel jealous about you?

Swami Vivekanand once wrote, "Jealousy is the bane of our national character, natural to slaves. Even the Lord with all His power can do nothing on account of jealousy....Jealousy is a vice necessarily generated in slaves. It is jealousy that holds them down."

What do you think of a husband who salutes his wife every morning and night?

He is a true devotee who sees divinity in a woman. The great Manu has said that gods bless those homes where women are happy and well-treated.

P. S. SONAR (Dewas)

Which Maharaja is paying more tax?

The Gwalior guy is being unloaded pretty fast. In another twenty years he will be Baburao Patel without even the brains.

MAHENDRA CHATWANI (Bombay)

What can be the object of a virgin who keeps on teasing without obliging?

Don't the athletes develop their muscles before they actually wrestle?

S. SUNTHARALINGAM (Colombo)

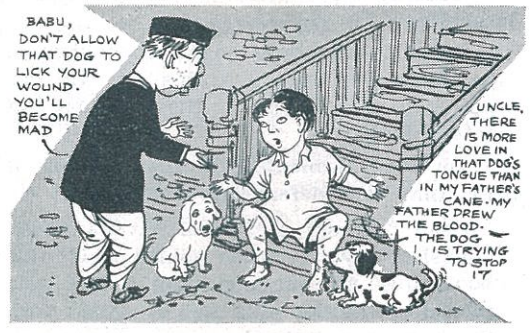
If an actress falls in love with you?

I shall have to send her to Hollywood to get some time to write "filmindia".

S. PRAKASH (Jullundur)

What toys did you play with in your childhood?

I played with dogs. Gentlemen called them pariahs. I looked upon them as little gods.


BABU, DON'T ALLOW THAT DOG TO LICK YOUR WOUND. YOU'LL BECOME MAD
UNCLE, THERE IS MORE LOVE IN THAT DOG'S TONGUE THAN IN MY FATHER'S CANE. MY FATHER DREW THE BLOOD. THE DOG IS TRYING TO STOP IT

What will be your swan song?

"Zamana bade showkhse sun raha tha, Hameen so gaye dastan kahate-kahate".

Ram Manohar Lohia sent to jail?

Jail is the home of those who criticize power.

Did Adam and Eve have a bedroom?

No, they waited for the Serpent to sleep.

Imagine Marilyn Monroe with a fig leaf?

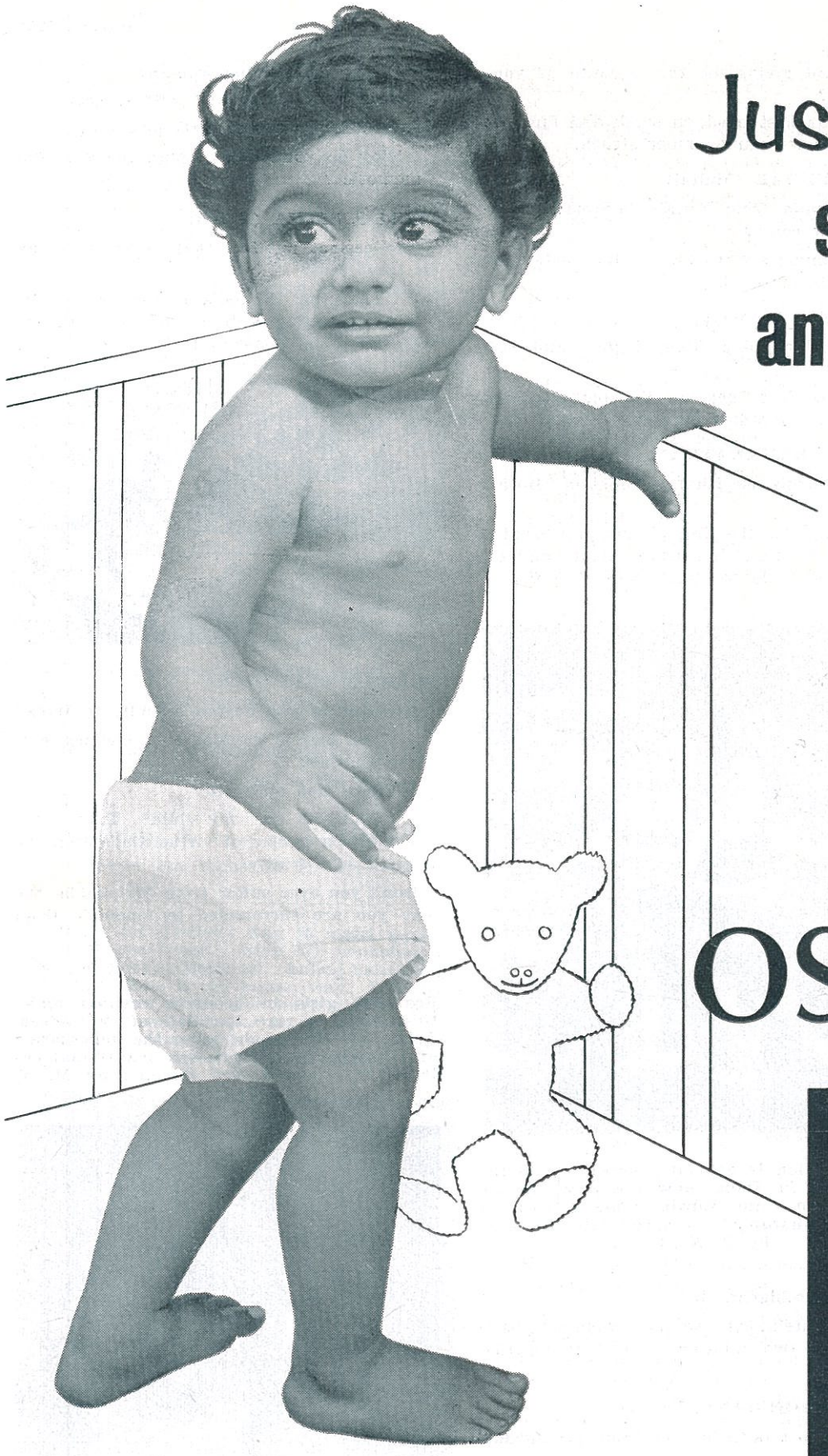
I cannot imagine something I did not see in the Monroe calendar.

Who owns P.S.P.?

Asoka Mehta's recent election—without Congress opposition—shows that the Congress owns the P.S.P.

I have a firm belief that you will become even greater after your death?

"Hamen kya jo turbat par mele rahenge Tahe khak hum to akele rahenge."



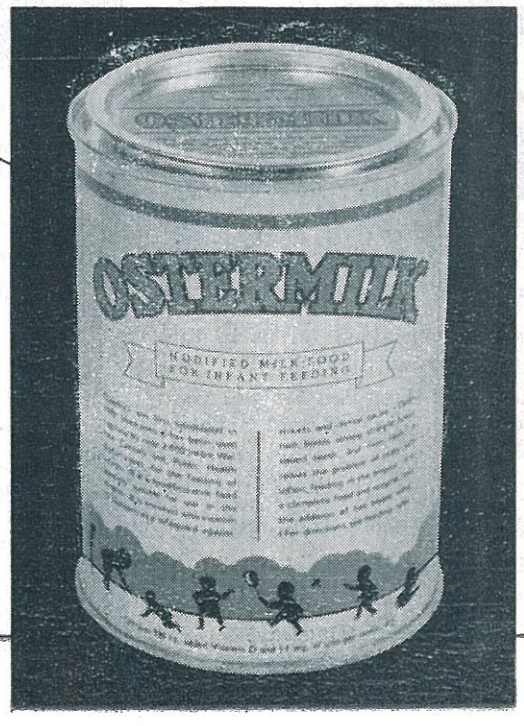
Just look at my **straight back and sturdy limbs**

When mother stopped feeding me she gave me the best baby food she could buy — OSTERMILK, which is pure, nourishing and very easily digested. Now I'm as strong and sturdy as any breast-fed baby —

thanks to

OSTERMILK

nearest to mother's milk



MY HINT TO MOTHERS

Send 50 naye paise in stamps (towards postage) to "Ostermilk", P. O. Box 202, Bombay, and you'll get a wonderful book on baby care. My mother has it . . . . you must too!

BOMBAY • CALCUTTA • MADRAS • NEW DELHI

E-69(B)

She has the eyes of a siren. They invite a man to bondage. And Madhuri Devi is ready with a chain in "Athisaya Penn", an exciting story produced in Tamil by Raman Productions.

P. PANDARINATH (Hyderabad)

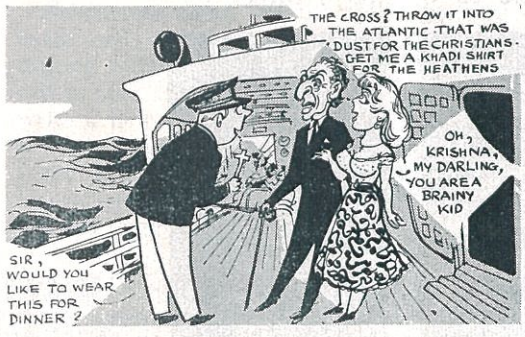
Why has God created prisons?

The womb and the tomb are the only prisons of God. Those between them are built by man.

MRS. T. S. SAMEER (Colombo)

Why does Defence Minister Shri Krishna Menon suffer from aches and pains only in the Security Council?

In a Christian country one has to dramatize one's role by carrying the Cross.


THE CROSS? THROW IT INTO THE ATLANTIC. THAT WAS DUST FOR THE CHRISTIANS. GET ME A KHADI SHIRT FOR THE HEATHENS
OH, KRISHNA, MY DARLING, YOU ARE A BRAINY KID
SIR, WOULD YOU LIKE TO WEAR THIS FOR DINNER?

What message is contained for us in the Beep-Beep of the Russian Sputnik?

The Russian Beep-Beep is a Bengali version of Weep-Weep, the national anthem of chronic slaves.

MADAN LAL SACHDEVA (Gurgaon)

How do you like our new postage stamps?

Our stamps have improved but not our postal service.

MISS R. T. SHIVDASANI (Bombay)

We will be going to the moon very soon. How about giving me the pleasure of your company?

Let us first meet on earth and find out whether we can be moon-struck.

V. R. HUDDAR (Multai)

A Brahmin from Patiala became a Harijan. How come?

Brahmins always know which side their bread is buttered.

ATMARAM (Bombay)

Is Kardar going high, higher and still higher?

He is fast nearing the highest point now, the paradise that is Pakistan.

MRS. V. RAMANATHAN (Calcutta)

Does Nargis use Khatau Voiles in "Mother India"?

Yes. All the film studios use Khatau Voiles because they have colours and designs suitable for photography.

The infection is evidently spreading to the teenagers in India now the way we see little Salome and Edwin doing a rock 'n roll in "Khazanchi", a social tale produced by P. N. Arora.

Am I intelligent, Babs?

An intelligent woman wouldn't have piled up two children in a short married life.

RAJ A. CHHUGANI (Poona)

I have lost faith in everything around me, Babs?

Put some oil in your own lamp, son. When a dry wick burns, the smoke gives a stink to the home.

What has Kamraj Nadar done so far that you talk so highly of him?

He doesn't talk and add insult to injury. Nehru does.

Is Nigar an obliging woman?

Didn't she oblige Asif with a son?

Aren't Anglo-Indian girls loveable?

Why do you have to stab me with old memories?

PREM C. SINHA (Arrah)

One cannot but feel that Nehru is doing his level best?

I agree, but the tools he uses are not the best. Sweating with rotten tools is throwing away an opportunity.

I AM NEWLY MARRIED, MENON AND I DON'T WANT MY WIFE TO BECOME A WIDOW SO SOON
WE'LL RETURN TOMORROW BEFORE YOU END, MENON
INDIA
I HEAR YOUR BORING SPEECHES AND WHEN I AM MAKING A SEVEN-HOUR SPEECH YOU FELLOWS ARE WALKING OUT?

TRISHLA DEVI (Delhi)

Are Burma and Ceylon friendly to India?

When fear is common even enemies love one another.

Is there God on earth?

Aren't you one, my child? Turn yourself into a temple of virtue and watch the magic of Divinity.

Don't you ever suffer from toxiphobia, the way you are surrounded by enemies from every side?

Beautiful girls in beautiful settings make this picture a rare spectacle of the screen. Asha and Madhubala bring the punctuation of sex-appeal in "Jwala", a sensational entertainer produced and directed by M. V. Raman.

Does the lion lose sleep because the jackals keep the jungle awake with their cries?

For how long haven't you tasted liquor?

I have stopped smoking and drinking as the little stock we have of cigarettes and drinks is required for our fashionable ladies. In my life ladies come first.

Are women sincere in America?

They are more sincere than American men.

At many book-stalls they do not exhibit the copies of "filmindia" but keep them inside the cupboards. Why, sir?

Isn't it wise to keep gold in a safe than risk a theft?

What is the limit of human knowledge?

God is the destination of all knowledge. Some reach it in a minute, others require an eternity.

Suggest me a career after my college education is over?

Unless I know the grain how can I tell you what can be made of the wood?

Is worship possible without eyes?

The mind needs no eye. It needs only faith to see.

Does death come in disguise?

No. Divinity comes in the disguise of death.

Are priests the messengers of God?

One in ten thousand perhaps! But by and large priests are grocers of religion, selling faith by measure.

T. A. RAMANATHAN (Calcutta)

Is Vyjayantimala a prince's dream?

Congress blackmarketeers have stolen all such expensive dreams from our princes. Princes can only dream of 'ayahs' now.

Why does Russi Karanjia celebrate Nehru's birthday every year?

Russi is a hero-worshipper. He also used to celebrate Sheikh Abdullah's birthdays.

Is A. R. Kardar patriotic?

Absolutely! He refuses to touch the Pakistani rupee. The Reserve Bank thinks that even for the films he sent to Pakistan he took only Indian money.

Who is this guy Fredda Brilliant?

Freda is not a guy. She is a girl with a wrong surname. She gave Dahyabhai Patel a new father in bronze.

How much do the Maharashtrians adore you?

As much as the Bengalis do.

Is truth allowed in your film circles?

Many of us have to face it in the cradles.

Girls in India seem to be going Burmese these days. Well, it is the wine that intoxicates, not the bottle. Mala Sinha plays an intriguing role in "Detective", a sensational thriller produced by Amiya Chitra.

This is the quickest way to make a young woman see sense. Stop her windpipe and no gas goes to the head. Balraj Sahni ought to have done it the jujitsu way. It is least painful and would not have given Minoo Mumtaz time to make faces at us in "Mai Baap", a sensational social thriller produced and directed by M. Sadiq.

HE HAS ASIF'S CHIN, DILIP KUMAR'S HAIR, JUNG BAHADUR'S COCKEYE, OM'S BROAD MOUTH AND RAMAN'S COLOUR. DON'T KNOW HOW TO FILL THE MUNICIPAL FORM
YOU CALL TOO MANY PEOPLE FOR YOUR BIRTH-DAY PARTIES AND THE GUESTS LEAVE AN IMPRESSION ON YOUR MIND

If I pull Nargis' leg?

You won't hurt Raj Kapoor any more.

What is the minimum accepted by an Income Tax Officer as a bribe?

A man I know used to take Rs. 5,000/- for a single consultation. He left the Department as he had a lot of property in the suburbs to manage.

Have you changed your view on Swami Sivananda?

I had no other view of him except the one he himself gave me of his feet being washed by women. How can I change his own view?

Bengalis say K. A. Abbas is a great fool?

They are wrong. A fool would not make our Government give him a loan of two lakhs of rupees. I think Abbas to be a very clever man to take out milk from a dry cow.

When is Prithviraj Kapoor alone?

A man with a mirror is never alone. He always has company.

If income tax officers cast their evil eyes on D. G. Tendulkar's "Tapas"?

Nehru will pull out their evil eyes. Tendulkar's annual return goes straight to Nehru.

Why does Nehru want Baburao Patel to be jailed?

Nehru probably wants a truthful criticism of conditions in jail. He cannot think of a more reliable man.

What is this Connaught Circus?

That is the place in New Delhi where fashionable women take foam-rubbers for a sun-bath.

With all the films he has worked in, Shammi Kapoor has learnt nothing at all.

A Kapoor must be loyal to his family tradition. I like loyalty.

Why don't you own a parrot?

I have two—Sushila and Shirin. They reproduce even my punctuation.

Why do you go on increasing the price of "Burning Words"?

They are evidently returning home late after a stolen picnic at Juhu. Whatever the old ones in the family may say, young people will continue to have their stolen moments of romance. Madhubala and Dev Anand bring to the screen some new romantic sighs in "Sharabi", an exciting love tale.

Prices of books are fixed by Morarji's Ministry of Convertible Import Licences. White art paper requires black currency these days.

What happened to Asha Mathur?

She is going to become a mother. God bless her.

Why does not Akhtar Hussain migrate to Pakistan?

Muslims usually go to Pakistan only after they run up enough debts in India. Nargis is still paying Akhtar's bills regularly.

Why has Rajaji begun to wash his own clothes?

He wants to see what is there in 'Sunlight Soap' which makes T. T. Krishnamachari a favourite of Nehru. Rajaji is a very curious scientist.

I have sympathy for Maharashtrians?

Lazy intellectuals don't deserve sympathy. They need the whip.

My late father T. K. Ayyavadhyar was a "Mahatma"?

All dead men are "Mahatmas" but few leave behind footprints.

What happens when Keskar Dada and Baburao Patel meet?

We don't meet. Balu Keskar is scared of me.

We will also weep when Baburao Patel dies?

Those who heal and teach don't die. They only change their address.

Why do you pursue the trail of truth like a bloodhound?

Is there another way to God?

How rich is Nirupa Roy?

Any figure up to twenty lakhs would be a good guess.

Does Nargis believe in religion?

The girl has a smile for everyone. Isn't that religion?

Can America produce Gandhijis?

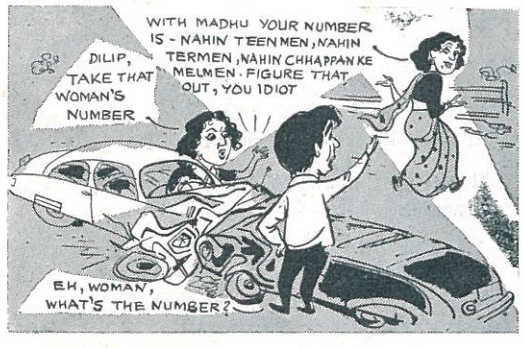
Americans will never produce a spiritual liability.

Don't Tatas evade tax?

No. On the other hand they spend a lot of money in entertaining high officers of the Central Board of Revenue to keep them in good collecting condition.

If Kamini's car accidentally dashes against Dilip's?

They smashed their mudguards long ago. Film folks like new accidents every time.


DILIP, TAKE THAT WOMAN'S NUMBER
WITH MADHU YOUR NUMBER IS - NAHIN TEEN MEN, NAHIN TERMEN, NAHIN CHHAPPAN KE MELMEN. FIGURE THAT OUT, YOU IDIOT
EH, WOMAN, WHAT'S THE NUMBER?

Why have Parsis a liking for cows?

Parsis are a decent, peace-loving people. They like to pay for their milk.

M. G. BHAGAT (Bombay)

Where can I find a temple without sin?

Have you tried your own mind?

What will you do if I steal from your writings?

People steal to spend. A good thought is worth circulating. Go ahead and steal. I'll bless you.

Why do I feel worried sometimes about you?

You probably feel that our Congressmen have taken over the world from God.

P. G. WANJALKAR (Nagpur)

Morarji seems to have been purified by his fast?

Impossible! You can drown him in the Ganges for one year, he will come out a Bulsari.

B. C. MIRCHANDANI (New Delhi)

Please tell me the number of guided missiles produced by India?

Madhubala, Vyjayantimala, Padmini, Nutan, Meena Kumari, etc. They are too many in our film industry operated by remote control.

I AM NOT COMING OUT. GET OUT DILIP BEFORE ABBAJAN WAKES UP
WEAR THE SHOE OR THE FUSE WILL GO, MADHU. I SEE THE REMOTE CONTROL IN ACTION EVEN WHEN THE STATION IS CLOSED

Is your name on the black list?

Truth is always on the black list. How will it show out otherwise?

Mr. Patel, no milk in your diet?

Mustn't we save some milk for our little babies, seeing that foam-rubber yields no milk these days?

Krishna Kapoor is seen at every film function these days. What does this prove?

It proves the triumph of a wise and patient housewife over the evil designs of others.

How many times do you pray in a day?

A man who is hunted is in prayer all the time.

The chief cook of the Ashoka Hotel is paid a salary of 20,000 Swiss francs a year, i.e. Rs. 1,845 a month. And they say there is a foreign exchange crisis in India?

Don't we pay well for our lies?

MISS LINA MIRANDA (Bombay)

You have a grand taste in women?

I am glad you have realized it.

B. P. AKHOURI (Patna)

When a Sikh becomes a sanyasi?

All he has to do is to throw off his clothes. The rest of the make-up is ready, unless, of course, he is a Nanak Panthi.

Had Vinobaji pleaded for an amendment of the Holy Quran?

We would have to take Vinobaji's ashes to the various rivers of India.

G. S. KARVE (Kalyan)

"Raja" Sulochana?

That is a Raja with a Rani's equipment! In Kaliyug anything can happen. Nehru sees a horse in a cow and sees no difference between milk and urine.

S. PRAKASH (Jullundur)

Does Raj Kapoor still have any adopted sisters?

He is trying to adopt a South Indian one these days.

If I flatter Balu Keskar?

You will get a Padma Vibhushan for a song you never sang. You know what happened to a fellow called Ratanjankar.

I want to put on some flesh. What should I do?

Take the homeopathic drug, Alfalfa, 20 drops a dose in a little water, four doses a day, for six months at least.

If I see Iris in my dream?

I'll prosecute you for poaching.

ONKAR DAYAL (New Delhi)

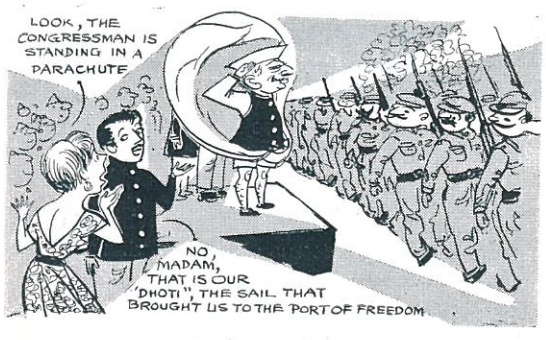
They say Tatas are taking over the Ashoka Hotel?

If they do, it will start paying dividends.

AVINASH MANN (Jullundur)

What are your feelings when you see a Minister in dhoti taking a salute?

I am always afraid that the 'dhoti' might take a salute too.



It is said that a man should marry a woman less educated than himself...How is it that you have married a very beautiful woman with first class M.A. L.T.?

Seeing that no one would grow any degrees in our family, I imported them. Just like our food imports, to make up the deficiency!

Basket-weaving is an easier job than weaving a pattern of romance for a pretty girl like Shyama, who still clings to her nose-ring to proclaim her virginity. Balraj Sahni is trying to enlist Baby Leela's cooperation in "Mai Baap", a tale of love produced and directed by M. Sadiq.

SAILENDRA PRASAD (Ranchi)

Does Premnath like his wife?

Everyone loves his bread.

MISS K. V. RAGHAVAN (Madras)

Who is that Yadugiri Devi?

She is the Jadugiri Devi behind Vyjayantimala.

RAMESH CHANDER SUD (Simla)

I generally cut a lip while kissing. Any remedy?

Choose an old mother next time and the kiss will bring home a blessing.

How to kiss a short woman?

Bend and become a Lal Bahadur for a minute. In love humility is a virtue.

Here, one Mr. S. K. Kapoor boasts that he met you in 1955?

Quite likely! Kapoors are always in the way.

Namboodripad seems to be an intelligent chap?

All Indian Communists are intelligent. They grow food in their brains and leave the fields barren.

Have you ever been insulted by a Punjabi?

Some Punjabis have abused me but I have not been insulted. An intelligent man is needed to insult me.

BRIJ MOHAN NANDA (New Delhi)

Raj Kapoor asking two lakhs for one picture! Is it true?

You are wrongly informed. He takes only Rs. 25,000|-. Ask the Income Tax authorities.

M. P. BHANOT (Rohtak)

Any paying business, sir?

Join the Congress while the second Five-Year Plan is being spent out.

Are you impressed by Maulana Azad's work so far?

No. Maulana Azad has kept education beyond the reach of the masses and by doing so transferred the slaves from the British to the Congress. Our leaders have begun at the wrong end of things. They have launched power projects without educating the masses. They don't know that a grain of education is worth a ton of rice.

JIWAT C. MOORJANI (New Delhi)

Raj Kapoor always indulges in self-praise?

Nothing wrong in doing so if he lives up to it. Auto-suggestion does sometimes work like a miracle.

Why was "Do Ankhen Barah Haath" exempted from Entertainment Tax?

It is a story of jail-birds and our Congress jail birds liked it. The story proves that criminals can be reformed enough to become Congress ministers.

Are Gujarati girls colourful?

Not without Khatau voiles.

What is Chandulal Shah's immediate need?

A crore of rupees! He never wanted anything less.

Ready for a fight! When a woman plays with her pigtail, she is planning an offensive. Shashikala brings some excitement to the screen in "Raja Beta", a social theme directed by Javar Sitaraman for Vallabh Productions.

MD. SANJARALI KHAN (Giridih)

"Hindu religion", according to Dr. Ambedkar, "is inert with narrow precepts. It is meant for only the privileged class and there is no room for reformation. Such religion is bound to vanish." Care to comment?

But it has been there for thousands of years with a thousand Ambedkars walking in and out of the world. The Hindu religion, if you call it a religion at all and not a philosophy, is like the flag of the United Nations which lends caste and security to a number of nations. Hinduism is the mother of all world religions. It has given soul and body to all religious code books of the world.

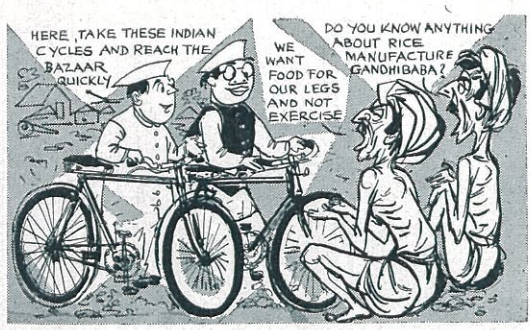
MANOHAR M. (Simla)

What work do the Ashrams in India do today?

The Ramakrishna Mission Ashrams are doing God's work today.

Is India industrially advanced today?

Minister Manubhai Shah says we manufacture more cycles today than ever before.


HERE, TAKE THESE INDIAN CYCLES AND REACH THE BAZAAR QUICKLY
WE WANT FOOD FOR OUR LEGS AND NOT EXERCISE
DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT RICE MANUFACTURE GANDHIBABA?

Does the dress heal wounds?

It hides the eczema. Without cloth, the human skin would look like a landscape of a million sins.

Do you think smuggling is a good job?

Well, it is tax-free. All you need is good public relations with the police.

T. C. THAKER (Ahmedabad)

How can Kardar afford to remain idle?

He has to prove his poverty in the midst of plenty.

Is Tendulkar a landlord too?

Yes, by Nehru's grace, he has become one now.

Believe me, sir, a civil jail is the best place on earth for rest. Don't you worry.

I am worried that I'll miss that rest too.

A. L. SETHI (Kharagpur)

Is Helen worth kidnapping?

No. She is a glutton. She wants five meals a day. The girl seems to be eating for her whole community.

Lucknow Muslims always chew 'paan'.

In Pakistan the Muslims don't get even "paan" to chew. They chew hatred.

If Humayun Kabir writes Nehru's biography?

That would be a life-story of Shahenshah Jawaharuddin Nehru.

I am dead against this socialistic pattern of society?

There is nothing wrong with the pattern but the cutters are corrupt.

Don't you accuse stars of signing so many contracts?

In a competitive game of profits why should they lag behind?

"Gurumukhi is more ancient than Sanskrit", roars a Sikh.

Then Sikhs must be more ancient than Aryans. By the way, what was the time in the clock when you heard the roar?

HRIDAY NARAIN (Allahabad)

Shri Patel, how can we come to your rescue?

Send a money order of Rs. 10 marked "Baburao Patel Rescue Fund" to Mr. Syed Noor, Commissioner of Income Tax, Queen's Road, Bombay. If 10,000 readers do that, they will have saved the "pound of flesh" which our "Welfare" State demands from me unjustly.

Naushad has repeated his old tunes in "Mother India". A music wizard indeed!

Naushad thinks we are fools.

SHALOME H. HAEEMS (Bombay)

A teenaged widow is in need of your advice. Can you help her?

My Jewish bureau of advice for that age group is managed by David Abraham, the bald Jew. He'll be happy to be of service particularly to a widow in teens.

I AM EIGHTEEN, SIR!
SHE HAS A LISP, BABS - SHE PRONOUNCES EIGHTY AS EIGHTEEN. SHE IS NOT IN MY AGE GROUP
WISE MEN OF BHARAT INC.
SORRY, OLD BOY, JEWS SEEM TO CHEAT JEWS. THE OTHER ONE IS WAITING FOR MY ADVICE. SHE IS OLD, YOU SEE

S. MANOHAR (Patiala)

"I have no regrets", says Raj Kapoor?

A seasoned sinner! I have more heart. I've always been grateful for all my moments of happiness.

How to digest pearls?

Bathe your heart in them if they come from a good woman's eyes. Tears are blood turned into water.

Nutan has started exposing her body.

Yes, the dream is coming to earth.

J. R. PATIL (Bombay)

Why don't you pay V. Shantaram back in his own coin?

I don't have that coin with me. I can only return truth for falsehood.

Any worms in Madras today?

E. V. Ramaswamy Naicker, the Kazagham spitfire, seems to have discovered some.

"I myself have not been to a barber since 1941", says Prithviraj Kapoor, M.P.?

Barbers are intelligent. Prithvi can't risk the infection.

MISS QURATULAIN (Bombay)

Who says Muslim girls hate you? I love you!

Thank you! In my prayers, I shall demand a good husband for you.

C. V. RAJAN (Calcutta)

Does Baburao get a headache?

A man with a head must get headaches.

K. R. S. MURTI (Guntur)

I have a strange defect of the eyes. I observe two big black spots moving rapidly before my eyes during the day or when there is excessive light.

Take homeopathic drug, Phosphorus 30, 4 pills twice a day—morning and night—for a week and report your progress to me.

MISS KANWAL BAJAJ (New Delhi)

Vegetarians are peaceful people?

What about Morarji Desai?

RAM L. NAKRA (Jullundur)

Do you intend to die penniless?

A thinker's estate is measured by thoughts, not by pennies.

Some Congressmen look so innocent?

After ten years of corruption don't you think, they should be able to perfect their make-up?

The pulse of a nation beats in its brothels?

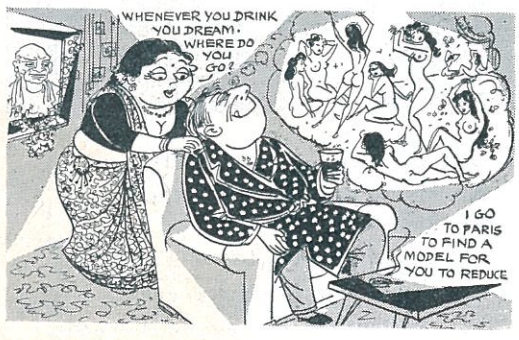
That is a field of research for Punjabi doctors.

Our women these days refuse to stitch buttons on their husbands' pants?

Do the pants need buttons with Pakistan threatening? Women have to be convinced before men can expect some service from them.

When a Gujarati takes whisky?

He wants to fly to Paris for a non-violent nude show.



Why does a honeymooning couple squeeze so much?

The squeezing types usually finish the juice before marriage. With the pulp dry the honeymooners crush the peel to yield some juice.

Whom does Panditji fear most?

China and Russia, according to T. T. K., his Cabinet colleague.

BHOOSHAN MALIK (Jullundur)

Supposing our Government puts a price on your head?

They have, but no one is paying it. They have as usual chosen the wrong head.

A blank smile does not necessarily mean a blank head. Women are experts in covering their intentions and one way to do it is by exposing their fine teeth without any apparent purpose. Madhubala brings new intrigue to the screen in "Kal Hamara Hai", a sensational theme produced and directed by K. Amarnath.

MRS. V. CHHAYA (Bombay)

What is the hardest job Nehru has to do?

He has to prove his personal honesty in the midst of a dishonest crowd.

P. THYAGARAJAN (Rangoon)

What will be the future of Indians in independent Islamic Malaya?

The non-Muslim Indians can live there for another three years but not more.

G. RAMANATHAN (Mannargudi)

Why has Dev Anand no belief in God?

If he has faith in himself he is not far from God.

How is Bombay under Y. B. Chavan's regime?

Chavan is persecuting me with frivolous prosecutions but otherwise he is doing good work without any demonstration.

Is Dr. Radhakrishnan the only philosopher in India?

The only one with the official price label.

How much has "Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baaje" earned for Shantaram?

Shantaram should have made over fifty lakhs of rupees so far.

SANTOSH RANADE (Barrackpore)

Who will escape from these new taxes?

Madrasis related to T. T. K., Kashmiris related to Pandit Nehru, U.P.ites related to Pandit Pant, Gujaratis related to Morarji and Bengalis related to A. K. Roy, the chief of the Central Board of Revenue. That covers the whole of India that is Bharat. The rest don't count.

RAM L. NAKRA (Jullundur)

Were you ever slapped while trying to kiss a girl?

Trying is a risky job. There is less risk in kissing straightaway.

SUSHIE, BABS KISSED ME SUDDENLY AND UPSET ME
DON'T GET UPSET, IRIS, I'LL TAKE THE KISS BACK AND GIVE IT TO SUSHIE
THAT IS THREE-IN-ONE TECHNIQUE OF KISSING, IRIS. NEVER PROVOKE AN OLD SINNER

MISS MANJIT (Jullundur)

Do you ever criticize yourself?

Constant study is a constant criticism of oneself.

What do Sindhis think of you?

From the things some of them do they don't seem to think much of themselves.

THE RUBICON OF 40

MEN ARE LIKE FROGS
THEY LEAP FROM DECADE TO DECADE
AT 10 you are a FINE CARE-FREE BOY
AT 20 you are a ROBUST CARELESS YOUTH
AT 30 you have the TIME OF YOUR LIFE
BUT AT 40
well: That's the age when you feel
BELOW PAR
and look for a General tonic.

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This is evidently a family situation in which the wise man of the family has been disillusioned. Minoo Mumtaz, Balraj Sahni, Sagar and Johnny Walker create some intriguing situations in "Mai Baap", a social theme produced and directed by M. Sadiq.

CHANDRA RAIZADA (New Delhi)

Define a Sikh?

That would be probing a puzzle of God.

A. S. NARAYAN (Trivandrum)

The Bengalis are the most provincial-minded?

That is why a famine collects more corpses in Bengal.

S. R. MHATRE (Bombay)

Who was Shivaji?

A warrior who stopped mosque-building in Maharashtra.

A. VAIDYANATHAN (Madras)

What are Brahmin widows?

Silent prayers for two meals and two saris.

What will be the future of Brahmins in Madras?

They have a risky future with the warriors of Ramayana in battledress again. I am anxious about Kasturi Building, the main citadel of Brahminism.

MISS K. SATYAVATI (Vishakapatnam)

If you come across a sour face?

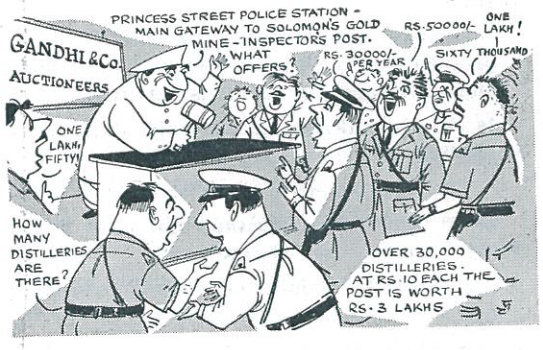
I cut out oranges for the day. Too much of Vitamin C is not good for the health.

When will Birla become a pauper?

In twenty years his socialistic pattern of society will be completed.

How to cure corruption and collect more money for the Plan?

The British used to raise excise revenue by auctioning grog-shops annually. By this method corruption was lessened and the prices of shops increased annually by competition. If our Congress rulers auction annual tenures of important government posts like those of Income Tax Officers, Prohibition Officers, P.W.D. Officers, Import License Officers and other posts coming in direct contact with the people, they will automatically raise a lot of money every year. A good Income Tax post may fetch Rs. 3 lakhs annually while an Import Controller's post may be sold for Rs. 10 lakhs. Why, a man like Birla might pay even Rs. 5 crores for the post of a Finance Minister, for the mere prestige of the post without caring to take the profits out of it. This method will legalize corruption and stop the criticism of people like me.


PRINCESS STREET POLICE STATION - MAIN GATEWAY TO SOLOMON'S GOLD MINE - INSPECTORS POST.
GANDHI & Co AUCTIONEERS
WHAT OFFERS?
RS. 30000/- PER YEAR
RS. 50000/-
ONE LAKH!
SIXTY THOUSAND
ONE LAKH FIFTY!
HOW MANY DISTILLERIES ARE THERE?
OVER 30,000 DISTILLERIES - AT RS. 10 EACH THE POST IS WORTH RS. 3 LAKHS

What is your wife's charity towards you?

She gives me food with a smile during my mendicancy. Very few modern wives do that.

K. A. K. AYYANGAR (Madras)

Why are South Indian stars so fat?

They get overtime wages.

What is the difference between a prostitute and a taxi?

With the first one you pay the fare and then take a ride. With the four-wheeler you take a ride and then pay the fare.

How do you spot the Andhras in Bombay?

By their growling intelligence! The one, who dines with me often, doesn't smile even after a good dinner.

I have decided to grow a beard till Baburao is free?

You will save Rs. 72 in two years. That helps our Five-Year Plan.

T. K. NARAYANAN (Shiyali)

What do you think of the horrible American cannibal bachelor who had eaten five women and the police found the sixth one hanging from a meat hook?

Seems to be a man living on the root of evil.

RAM L. NAKRA (Jullundur)

I have not attracted a single girl all my life?

Wear a sadhu's robe and you will have to fish for men.

I HAVE BLADDER PRESSURE, HOW CAN I ESCAPE NOW? IS THERE NO MAN AROUND WHO CAN SCATTER THIS FEMALE DEVOTION?
NOT GOOD LOOKING BUT VERY SPIRITUAL
HE HAS NOT GOT UP FROM THERE FOR A YEAR
HE DOESN'T NEED TO. HE DOESN'T EAT OR DRINK ANYTHING.

PREM C. SINHA (New Delhi)

Where will your fight with the Income Tax authorities end?

It will end in the triumph of truth.

Where has our character gone?

It got burnt in our empty stomachs.

What is your well-thought advice to the young men of India?

Don't burn a thought without baking a bread over its fire.

K. A. PATNA (Madras)

You are also a journalist like K. Srinivasan of "Hindu"?

Srinivasan runs a stable of journalists and bets on them. I run for my own living.

Woman is afraid of her own shadow?

Woman is 'Shakti'. How can the mother of the human race allow a flicker of fear in her womb where new lamps are lighted in an eternal procession?

She has cocked her eyes for a good, clear sight. At that angle a woman sees a little more of the man than is good for him. Shyama, the pretty dream of our college boys, brings new thrills to the screen in "Khazanchi", a love tale.

Why we poor Hindus do not spare even the cowdung?

Because the milk went to the Brahmins through ages.

KRISHAN GULATI (Jullundur)

I think at least pretty women should not tell lies?

And lose a facet of their beauty? Unless women lie they won't blush, nor get angry.

HARIRAM G. JUGAT (Bombay)

"History repeats itself". Any fresh example!

Krishna Menon's second performance in the Security Council as the sick man of India!

Illustrate the difference between an apple of discord and a bone of contention?

The apple grows in bedrooms, the bone is found in public rooms.

MISS PRAVINA (Rajkot)

If Nadira winks at you?

Her Arab will drag India to the Security Council.

ROOP H. KALYANI (Calcutta)

What is your last advice to Kardar?

The same that Gandhiji gave to the British in 1942, "Quit India".

M. KRISHAN (Ambala)

Tell us a good joke about Pandit Nehru?

He had submitted his resignation as the Prime Minister four times in the first three years.

K. LAKSHMI (Madras)

Is there anything that America lacks?

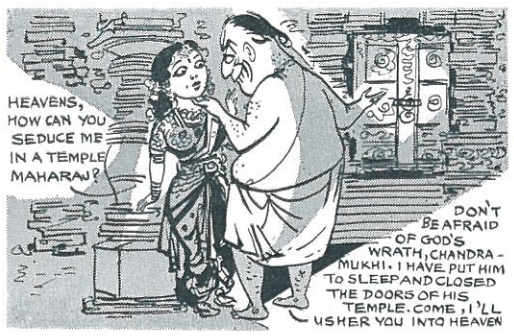
America lacks religion, the variety that makes God out of man.

This was Shri Sri Prakasa's confession in Madras: "I see heavy books on my table with the words "Five-Year Plan" printed on the cover; they are so big that I never had the courage to look into them. Of course when somebody is talking about them I pretend that I know all about it. I may tell you that I know nothing about it."

Sri Prakasa is a great friend of Nehru and his confession is very important. This honest Congressman wants to tell us that our crores are being spent with the Plan book remaining closed on the table.

Why don't you open your office in New Delhi, India's capital?

And also lose my character—all that is left to me in Nehru's "Welfare" State? There are more slaves round a king than in the country.


HEAVENS, HOW CAN YOU SEDUCE ME IN A TEMPLE MAHARAJ?
DON'T BE AFRAID OF GOD'S WRATH, CHANDRA-MUKHI. I HAVE PUT HIM TO SLEEP AND CLOSED THE DOORS OF HIS TEMPLE. COME, I'LL USHER YOU INTO HEAVEN

S. K. VASUDEVA (Hoshiarpur)

Mr. E. V. Ramaswamy Naicker has threatened to burn the copies of the Indian Constitution?

Let him! We can always print more.

V. J. THAKUR (Poona)

I hate you as much as I like to read "filmindia"?

If you live by hatred, my son, you will soon look like a "tanduri" chicken.

MISS MANIK BHANDARE (Bombay)

Are you a donor to the blood bank?

Yes, but the bank is housed in Aayakar Bhuvan.

Two teachers from Nagpur are prepared to enjoy a ride in our Sputnik?

They will die in their beds—so will their grandchildren.

This time your prediction has gone wrong. You said in August 1956 that Zhukov will also follow Molotov?

Hasn't Zhukov been Molotoved? Now wait till Bulganin is Zhukoved.

RAM MALKANI (Bombay)

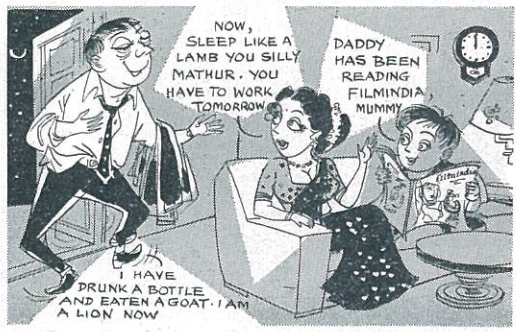
I have yet to meet a crooked fellow like you! What do you say?

Do I beat the Sindhis too?

A. K. MATHUR (Barmer)

The world vegetarians have condemned meat eating. What is your opinion, please?

Eat meat if you can, take a peg or two of whisky but not more. The vegetarians are damn fools. Goats never ruled the jungle. The lions do.


NOW, SLEEP LIKE A LAMB YOU SILLY MATHUR. YOU HAVE TO WORK TOMORROW
DADDY HAS BEEN READING FILMINDIA, MUMMY
I HAVE DRUNK A BOTTLE AND EATEN A GOAT. I AM A LION NOW

I am in the habit of forgetting things. Any remedy please?

Take Anacardium 30, 4 pills twice a day, morning and evening, for some days. It is a memory drug which reminds you even of the promises given to the wife.

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There is so much carved furniture in this carved setting that the human figures have also begun to look like carvings. See the folds on Madhubala's leg and the Kathakali embroidery on Kishore Kumar's chest. Let us hope these figures come to life in "Jwala", a sensational entertainer produced and directed by M. V. Raman.

My date of birth is 15th March 1927. Please tell me something about myself.

Keep away, if you can, from drugs and drinks. Being a Mathur, you have an additional affinity for the bottle.

Will you please let me know the secret of your mastery over the English language?

I have read over 3000 books.

My seven-year-old son has a large testicle. Surgeons have suggested an operation after some years but I want to avoid it. Can you recommend some homoeopathic treatment?

Get it cut now. The operation is not dangerous. If it starts growing again, write to me for a homoeopathic prescription.

ALEX JOSEPH (Bombay)

My wife desires to name our next son Krishna Menon. I do not agree?

Nor do I. Give the child a more polite start.

Who is the most talented film actress?

Nargis takes my salute till some one else gives a better performance.

S. K. NANGIA (New Delhi)

Hate Punjabis?

No! A man who loves God cannot hate human beings. For, aren't they made in His image?

MISS RUBY SAXENA (Philibhit)

Mr. Patel, you like attractive women. One of my aunts has an ever-smiling face with bedroom eyes, straight nose and juicy lips. May I send you her photograph?

I like originals, not photographs.

MRS. KANAKA K. PANDA (Sambalpur)

Can you suggest something by which my husband will stop smoking?

If he is hen-pecked refuse to give him a kiss. If he is a caveman, take a cigarette and threaten to smoke it yourself.

C. C. PANDYA (Baroda)

Do you recommend 'Dalmia Biscuits'?

Dalmia seems to be using better material in manufacturing his biscuits than God did in making Dalmia. Dalmia reveals more pride of purpose in his work.

Why have war-time queues for rice reappeared in Bombay?

To prove that the first Five-Year Plan was a great success.

What is your honest opinion about the demonstrations held by the Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti at the Pratapgarh Fort on November 30, 1957?

It was a stupid masturbation of well-nursed political manpower. The Samiti hasn't the brains even to adopt Shivaji's guerilla tactics with the politicians in power.

The Congress did not oppose Asoka Mehta in his recent election to Parliament! What is the mystery?

A Trojan horse is very useful in Congress 'poly-tricks'.

Y. K. KATTIMANI (Bijapur)

Has God created woman only to tame man?

No, God has created woman to build a home and light in it a lamp of faith.

A. RAMI REDDY (Guntakal)

What is Mahavir Tyagi's complaint?

They robbed him of a State funeral.

India is taking shelter under the Soviet umbrella, says a Pak report?

When it rains suddenly, you rush to the umbrella not to its owner.

LOVE ? YES, MADAM, MY LOVE FOR YOU IS AS PROFUSE AS THIS RAIN
YOUNG MAN, I'VE HAD THREE HUSBANDS BUT NOT ONE OF THEM EVER EMBRACED ME SO HEARTILY DO YOU LOVE ME SO MUCH ?

M. CHIDAMBARANATHAN (Madras)

Why is it that the multi-millionaires do not bother about the taxes?

They have weighing machines to turn puny Income Tax Officers into mighty Aga Khans.

Always statuesque! When a woman has almost perfect features, it is difficult for her to twist them into different moods. Nutan gives a thrilling performance in "Sone-Ki-Chidiya", a romantic tale.

P. S. EASWARAN (Calcutta)

Suppose all of us were to become Muslims?

Do labels matter if the Light we search is the same?

I have a few I.T.O. friends. Will they be of any help to you?

I demand justice and justice doesn't need flirtation.

Pancholi has come back to India?

His flirtation with Pakistan did not pay. People who adopt step-mothers have often to rush home for milk.

Have you any municipal scandal there?

We have a municipality that stinks all over the town.

A. G. SOMAN (Amravati)

Why did Shivaji keep a beard?

To wage a battle of beards with Aurangzeb.

SURESH GANDHI (Rangoon)

Do you think that India will fulfill her second Five-Year Plan in spite of the foreign exchange crisis?

T. T. Krishnamachari, our Finance Minister, described the Plan in Lok Sabha as follows: "The Plan is an imperfect essay of an imaginative person in projecting his ideas into the future without being bound by mundane considerations such as shortages of finance, man-power and resources. What the Plan frame was nobody knows." Can you imagine a greater admission of failure? We are thus spending crores of rupees on something which nobody knows.

When a woman looks athletic, she frightens the modern sissies away. If only Mala Sinha would eat every alternate day, she would add years to her screen career. Anyway, let us see with whom she wrestles in "Detective", a sensational thriller.

K. J. THAKOOR (Poona)

Please bless me.

Hum gharibonse milo, ya na milo, shaad raho, Tum salamat raho, jeeta raho, abaad raho.

S. M. KARNA (Bombay)

What about the Bengali man who threatened to go on a fast till death over the Rossellini-Sonali affair?

Fasting cannot kill a Bengali. He decided to live.

Near my house liquor is sold like milk from a Bhaiyya's shop.

It must be the same stuff that is manufactured near my house.

MISS G. G. SAMBRANI (Dharwar)

Would you like to have the same wives in your next birth?

I can't escape them. Well, that will save time in introductions.

J. B. WILLIAM (Bangalore)

I am broke.

That is our national anthem.

C. S. N. MURTHY (Bangalore)

Why was a white pigeon perched on the head of Nehru on his 68th birthday?

The pigeons seem to have already accepted Nehru as a future statue.

BRIJ MOHAN (New Delhi)

Can you suggest any remedy for wind which makes breathing difficult?

If the wind is in the stomach, take 4 pills of Carbo Veg 30, if in the abdomen then try 4 pills of Lycopodium 3x.

AMAL KUMAR SINHA (Shahabad)

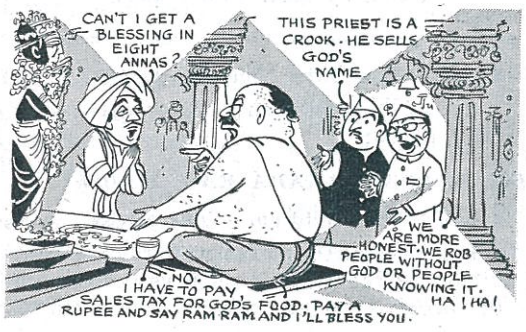
If you are given a Congress ticket to contest the next election?

Congress tickets are usually given to dumb people with anaemic smiles.

BALKRISHAN BHAWANKHEL (Bikaner)

No "Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram" these days?

How can you lend conscience to corruption? Congress dacoits are more honest than Hindu priests.


CAN'T I GET A BLESSING IN EIGHT ANNAS?
THIS PRIEST IS A CROOK. HE SELLS GOD'S NAME.
NO. I HAVE TO PAY SALES TAX FOR GOD'S FOOD. PAY A RUPEE AND SAY RAM RAM AND I'LL BLESS YOU.
WE ARE MORE HONEST. WE ROB PEOPLE WITHOUT GOD OR PEOPLE KNOWING IT. HA! HA!

P. C. ANTONIO (Bombay)

Is religion essential for a man who believes in humanity?

She is up to her tricks again illustrating the romantic designs of her mind with intriguing finger work. These dancing beauties are a serious challenge to a man's peace of mind. They land a new moon right into a man's sleep. Let us find out why Vyjayantimala is showing her curves in "Piya Milan", a romantic tale produced by R.R. Productions.

No. Once he sees God in every man, where is the need of searching for a label?

J. DAKSHINAMURTHY (Bolarum)

Who could possibly succeed Baburao Patel?

I will have thousands of successors. I am not a Prime Minister. I am a thinker, and the seed of thought is simultaneously sown in thousands of minds.

MRS. SAROJINI RAMANI (Howrah)

Have you ever listened to Dhebar's speech?

No. God has been very merciful to me. He has spared me many pains.

S. B. SYED (Guntur)

Please give your accurate verdict on the Holy Quoran?

PRIZE WINNERS FOR JANUARY

1st Prize to T. A. Ramanathan (Calcutta); 2nd Prize to Prem C. Sinha (Arrah); 3rd Prize to Miss K. Satyavati (Vishakapatnam); 4th Prize to Avinash Mann (Jullundur) and 10 Consolation Prizes to the following:— S. Prakash (Jullundur); G. S. Karve (Kalyan); Shalome H. Haeems (Bombay); Manohar M. (Simla); Santosh Ranade (Barrackpore); Ramesh Chander Sud (Simla); C. C. Pandya (Baroda); A. K. Mathur (Barmer); R. Thirunarayanan (Chidambaram) and B. J. Sadarangani (Poona). Money orders are being sent to all the prize winners.

I like the part written before the Prophet went to Medina.

A. V. RAGHAVAN (New Delhi)

No mention of the late Sardar Patel by our beloved Prime Minister nowadays?

People don't remember those who give them an inferiority complex. Little men can enter history only when big ones are Stalinized.

SHIVRAM SHUKLA (Puri)

Why don't we feel anything for the second Five-Year Plan?

It is a plan for Congressmen and not for the people.

VIR B. S. CHAUHAN (Mainpuri)

Once Kishore Sahu climbed the highest ladder of repute.

He knows the way. Well, after he has rested a bit he will go up again. The shade is always under the tree.

Pandit Nehru received the greatest reception ever given to any Prime Minister or President in Japan?

The Japanese know how to sell their goods. They also heard the Pandit with their ears plugged with cotton wool.

MRS. KANTA MEHANDROO (Tohana)

My child is only three months old but she cries too hard. Any remedy?

Get a dram of Chamomilla 6, in size 20, and give her an occasional dose of 2 pills. That will also help her during teething. You can give her two doses a day, morning and evening, when she is impossible to manage.

TIRTH K. AIDASANI (Bombay)

Do you see the Income Tax Officer in your dreams?

My dreams are not taxed yet. Devils can't disturb the sleep of the just.

When her mind slides to the corners of her eyes, a woman's design takes a new slant. When she is in this pose, a man has to face some cautious planning. Vyjayantimala brings some rare intrigue to the screen in "Piya Milan", a sensational love tale produced by R.R. Productions.

Even dacoits love Nehru!

So do Congressmen! All people love their Sardar.

DR. B. PRABHAKARA RAO (Kottam)

I have three children. Your advice?

For the fourth, please wait till the next birth. At the moment we have not enough of foreign exchange even to buy food.

MRS. NALIN DARWHEKAR (Amravati)

How is Morarji Desai related to Rafiq Zakaria?

Here is another charmer warning us not to go near her—a nerve-racking order with so much to fight for. Helen, the screen dancer, is fast becoming a useful actress and she gives a good account of herself in "Piya Milan", an exciting love tale.

He is the friend-in-law of Mrs. Zakaria.

R. VENKATESWARAN (Poona)

Do you think that meat is absolutely necessary for our health?

Yes, if lambs are ever to be known as lions.

B. J. SADARANGANI (Poona)

I saw a photograph of Nutan and her sister taken at the gates of Buckingham Palace. Was Nutan invited by the Queen?

One doesn't need an invitation to go to the gates. All that is needed is a little inferiority complex and a hired cameraman.

LAJPAT R. RIKHI (Simla)

What will cure gum-bleeding with blisters on the tongue?

Take a dose of Sulphur 30, once early morning for a week. If you don't improve let a doctor have a look at your digestive machinery.

VENILAL M. KHATRI (Navsari)

Whom do you prefer between Nutan and Nimmi?

Doesn't an old tongue like a pickle more than a raw fruit?

Rs. 300/- EVERY MONTH IN 14 PRIZES

The following prizes will be awarded every month for questions which are considered interesting or elicit interesting replies in the "Editor's Mail".

1st Prize: Rs. 100|-; 2nd Prize: Rs. 50|-; 3rd Prize: Rs. 30|-; 4th Prize: Rs. 20|- and 10 Consolation Prizes of Rs. 10|- each.

A reader can ask as many questions as he likes but those letters which bear the Priority Coupon will be answered first. A reader gets three coupons free per copy and he has therefore the chance to catch the bus thrice every month. Questions should be neatly written, or typed if possible, with some blank space left between two questions. It is in this blank space that the editor writes his replies. Unless the letters are signed they won't be considered.

In awarding prizes, the editor's decision shall be final and absolutely binding and no correspondence will be entertained about the distribution of the prizes.

The names of the prize-winners will be announced in "Filmindia" every month and the prize money will be remitted by money order.

Cut the coupons below and fix them to your questions if you want to be answered quickly.

1 PRIORITY COUPON
CUT HERE JANUARY 1958

2 PRIORITY COUPON
CUT HERE JANUARY 1958

3 PRIORITY COUPON
CUT HERE JANUARY 1958

CAPITAL IN MAKING

Though Brazil is a fairly large country occupying an area of 3.2 million square miles, many parts of it are still undeveloped. Brazilians, however, seem to have become acutely conscious that their natural resources are being wasted and have now begun to plan a new capital, Brasilia, on entirely modern lines. Situated on a plateau, 3500 feet high in the State of Goyaz and endowed with a fine climate, Brasilia is going to swallow some crores of cruzeiros by the time it takes its place as the capital of Brazil. And the model for Brasilia is America's Washington, D.C.

Rio de Janeiro, the present capital, has become so crowded that the Brazilians are dissatisfied with it. President Kubitshek hopes to shift into Brasilia sometime in 1961—a dream that is likely to become a reality because work has already begun there.

Is it worthwhile giving up Rio de Janeiro, the capital of Brazil after a hundred and fifty years? Rio has a beautiful sea coast which Brasilia doesn't have. Changing capitals is not a new thing, for right from Emperor Constantine who made Byzantium the capital of the Roman empire or Akbar, the Moghul Emperor, who in a passing whim constructed Fatehpur Sikri, down to our Congress gods who have erected Chandigarh and Bhuvaneshwar, the craze seems to be for something different every time. It is the eternal building urge in man that finds a variety of expressions.

SEX-CRAZY SENORITAS?

In a predominantly Roman Catholic country like Spain, it does sound incongruous to find a "growing immorality" amongst the feminine members of the Church. But probably too much emphasis on morality has swung its followers to the other extreme. And the Roman Catholic Church is frankly worried.

To correct this scandalous state of affairs, Cardinal Deniel, head of the Church in Spain, issued recently a 12-point code stressing feminine modesty.

The code debars the fair sex from wearing plunging necklines, short sleeves, short skirts and tight-fitting bodices that reveal the sex curves. This is not the first time that such rules are being enforced. The trouble is that they are never strictly observed.

The tourist industry thinks that this code will result in loss of revenue because foreign tourists don't like dress restrictions.

Blockading feminine charms with high necks and long skirts is rather tough on the young, good-looking Spanish senoritas but with so much poverty in Spain which religion can't eradicate, copying a Monroe or a Russell can hardly be considered a crime.

THE LESSER EVIL

Homosexuality in Britain at least is fast losing the old stigma attached to this ancient vice. The Wolfenden Report published recently has put homosexuality on a more liberal footing recommending that homosexual acts between two consenting males aged 21 and over should not be punishable as crime.

And now the general assembly of the Church of England endorsed the view expressed by the Wolfenden Committee. After the motion was carried through, Dr. Geoffrey Fisher, Archbishop of Canterbury, said: "Homosexuality violates manhood. Heterosexuality violates both manhood and womanhood as well and to my mind that makes it far worse." Moreover heterosexual vices did more damage to the community than the homosexuals who were a minority and therefore less harmful.

It is not that the Church of England has commended homosexuality. It only regards it as a lesser evil with a limited scope and less dangerous to society.

NO MORE CURTSYING

Lord Altrincham, the 33-year-old Conservative peer, who shot into limelight five months ago with his bold criticism of Queen Elizabeth, raised a bitter controversy over the propriety of doing so. Lord Altrincham was even punched in the face by a member of the League of Empire loyalists.

Writing in a straightforward vein, in "The National And English Review" Altrincham had described the Queen's speaking as "a pain in the neck" and her utterances as those of a "priggish school girl" and called for a "truly classless and Commonwealth Court" to replace her present entourage of "people of the tweedy sort."

Evidently the frank criticism of Lord Altrincham has begun to have some effect for the Lord Chamberlain's office in London announced on November 14, 1957, that presentation parties for society debuntantes at Buckingham Palace would be discontinued from 1958 onwards.

The Queen thus gave up a 400-year-old custom and it is just as well, for these parties only made women more snobbish. The usual garden parties, of course, will continue to be given.

Now there might be less blue-blood and more red blood in the Queen's democratic court.

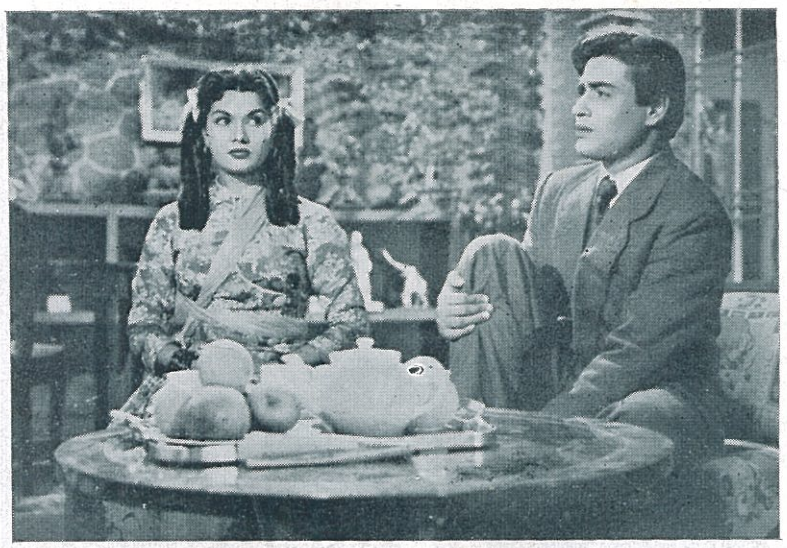
HER SEVENTH DELIGHT

In the West, a woman can become a bride at any age, from 15 to 75, and if she happens to be rich, then nothing in the world can stop her from leading a submissive lamb to the altar.

Five-&-Dime heiress, 45-year-old Barbara Hutton, is contemplating marriage again with 30-year-old Philip Van Rensslaer, a one-time New York model. This will be Barbara's seventh one, the sixth one was Baron Gottfried von Cramm.

Evidently marriages charge Barbara with more youth. Otherwise why should middle-aged Barbara have picked up young Philip? In any case the idle rich cannot be denied the luxury of a new man in bed.

Here is a bright one with a bright idea. In youth they look as if they have just opened their eyes on the world. Kum Kum is thrilling many hearts already and she breaks new ones in "Ghar Sansar", a domestic tale directed by V. M. Vyas for Pushpa Pictures.



This young man does not care for the teapot or the apples on the table. He has another apple in his eye and he is thinking of new tricks to come to the old game. But Shyama knows what Rajendra Kumar is about in "Khazanchi", a romantic tale produced by Producer P. N. Arora.

ERASING IKE?

Frustration in human beings finds many an outlet, though it always succeeds in showing only petty-mindedness.

In Louisiana, one of the Southern States of U.S., where white citizens are conscious of their racial superiority, there was a road called the "Eisenhower Drive", named after the worthy president of the U.S.

Recently some of these citizens lost their temper because President Eisenhower sent troops to Arkansas to help the school integration there. They took a petition to the City Council to change the name of the road to Cullen Drive. The Council consented and now there is no more Eisenhower Drive.

This is a puerile act and it is not going to hurt Eisenhower in any way. It only proves that democracy is still ruled by hatreds and passions.

AMERICAN CULTURE

The atrocities committed by the members of the Ku-Klux-Klan in old times were shocking enough but that they should continue to be perpetrated even in these times under a democratic sky in the U.S. is at once shocking and nauseating. Luckily justice comes to the rescue of the suffering and vindicates the inherent greatness in man.

Recently an all-white jury headed by Judge Atta L. King of Birmingham, U.S.A., sentenced Bart A. Floyd, 31-year-old member of the Ku-Klux-Klan to 20 years' imprisonment for castrating a Negro in a lonely Alabama shack.

Said Judge King: "The sentence is not nearly commensurate with the crime. You have disrupted the friendly relations between the races. You have drawn the attention of the entire world. This is the most cowardly, atrocious and diabolical crime ever to come to my attention."

Meanwhile another Klansman, Joe Pritchett, was also sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment for mutilating a Negro called Edward Aaron in Birmingham, Alabama. Such cases seem to be getting more and more common now with the Government keen on integration.

CRIME OF LOVING

Nothing in the world can stop two young people from falling in love whatever be the segregation laws. Love is too fiery an emotion to submit to man-made bars of hatred and prejudice.

At Fort Wayne, Indiana, U.S., a 17-year-old Negro boy had the audacity to fall in love with a white girl. The mother complained. Result: a juvenile court sentenced the boy to six months' detention in a state penal farm while the girl was packed off to a school for juvenile delinquents for an indefinite time.

Well, we didn't know that black-white adolescent love constituted a juvenile crime. The scope of juvenile crime in the U.S. has evidently been enlarged now.

THE BRIGHT SIDE

The lot of the Negroes in the U.S., according to U.S. Secretary of Labour, Mr. James Mitchell, is not as miserable as is made out by many champions of Negro advancement.

Addressing the National Urban League in New York, a 47-year-old inter-racial social service organization, Mr. Mitchell listed the following facts to show the progress made by the U.S. Negroes:—

The purchasing power of the Negro citizens is over 17,000 million dollars. One-third of them own their own homes. They own more than 200 insurance companies with 5 million policy holders. They own 14 banks with total assets of 40 million dollars. The Negro wage earner makes 4½ times what he made in 1940. Since 1930, college enrollment has increased by 622%.

Added Mitchell: "I do not mean to imply that the long battle against prejudice has been won, nor even that it is nearing an end. The story, I think, is not one of how we did it, but of how we are doing it and will keep on doing it as long as it is required."

There is a ray of hope in this assurance for those who pin their faith in democracy which alone guarantees equal rights and equal opportunities for all regardless of race, sex, etc.

CIVILIZING RED INDIANS

The Red Indian, (better known as Indian in the U.S.), is no longer a novelty to us, thanks to Hollywood film producers who have made him the laughing stock of the world. But the Indians are not all so crude and illiterate and the white Americans even have a Bureau of Indian Affairs to look after the interests of these Indians and to "civilize" them.

In November 1957, 205 Indians representing 62 tribes met at a conference to discuss their progress. The Bureau has been able to make three tribes independent while 20,000 Indians have gone into the cities from their reservations.

Some of the Indian leaders felt that instead of taking away the Indians from the reservations, the Government should spend more money on developing the reservation land. Said Joseph Garry, "As for the bureau giving us 'freedom' we are free from all taxes, including tax from income on Indian land and we are free to hunt and fish. What other freedoms could we have?"

The Bureau says that the conservative element amongst the Indians is against progress and they prefer to stick to their old culture and traditions. Anyway the Indians have been there long before the whites arrived on the scene.

SLUMS IN AMERICA

Though Americans often brag that the living standards in the U.S. are the highest in the world today, there are quite a few poor millions to whom candy and hamburghers are a real luxury.

According to a survey conducted by "Fortune", 17 million Americans live in slums. These were mostly racial minorities who were compelled to live in dirty areas forming "ghettos of industrial conglomerations."

Next time an American ridicules an Indian slum, he should remember that there are slums in the U.S. too. The mighty dollar has not yet been able to dissolve the slum.

TEENAGE MURDERER

Imagine a thirteen-year-old boy killing a whole family in a fit of temper! But it did happen in Bentonville, Arkansas, on November 26, 1957. In the U.S. one can expect the worst type of juvenile crime. People there don't get shocked any more but we who believe in non-violence are naturally struck dumb.

This 13-year-old American boy was asked by his 34-year-old mother to attend to the cows before going to school as his father was in hospital with a hand amputation. The boy, wild at this order, took a gun and killed his mother, then he killed his 3-year-old brother and his 5-year-old sister who were

sleeping. Finally he put a bullet through his own chest and then dragged himself some 200 yards to the neighbouring farm.

It is high time responsible American citizens did something to save the youth of their country. In India, a 13-year-old boy may not be even able to differentiate between a real and a toy gun.

AMERICAN INFECTION

Though post-war Japan has been able to rehabilitate itself pretty well, it has had to face many a new social problem for the first time. One of these is the spectacular increase in juvenile delinquency which is traced to the post-war American occupation. The American way of life, even in America, has led to an increase in ghastly juvenile crime. With such an ideal before them, the Japanese seem to have succumbed already.

During the first six months of 1957, more than 300,000 crimes by juveniles were investigated by the police. The crimes ranged from assault to rape, drug addiction to murder. Over 30,000 teenagers convicted for these offences were sent to reformatories.

Sociologists say that after the American occupation of Japan, the Japanese education system was changed. The schools banned the State text books and dropped the ethics course from the school syllabus. Now they are thinking of introducing a new course in ethics in the school curriculum so that more youngsters don't go astray.

Juvenile crime was unheard of in pre-war Japan but evidently the Japanese are making great progress in this direction. The Americans have set the wheel rolling.

WITCH-HUNTING

Joseph McCarthy, the witch-hunter who gave a new word to the English language—McCarthyism—is dead and gone but the legacy he has left behind continues to rear its ugly head now and again causing unnecessary worry and harassment to many an innocent victim.

Way back in 1954, there was quite a storm over Physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission's General Advisory Committee, whether he was a security risk in that responsible post. A three-man committee headed by Gordon Gray had declared Oppenheimer to be a loyal citizen but that past "disregard for the requirements of the security system" had made him a security risk. Since that time Oppenheimer though engaged in basic research has been kept away from Government research or national secrets.

Recently Trevor Gardener of Hycon Manufacturing Company has suggested a re-opening of the Oppenheimer case "in light of today's problems". Another man pressing re-investigation is Thomas E. Murray, former Atomic Energy Commissioner.

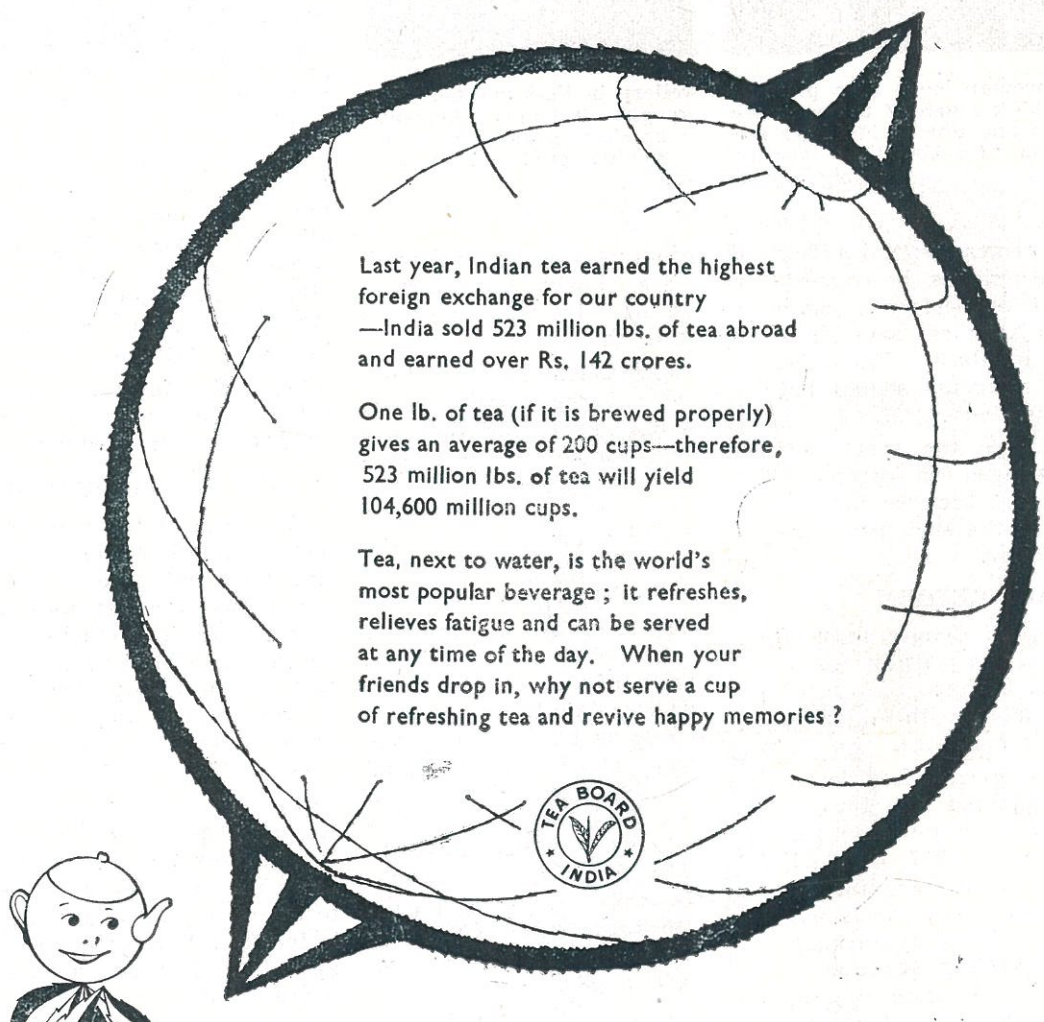
It is this kind of witch-hunting that results in giving a handle to Communists to condemn democracy. The State has already done the needful in the Oppenheimer case.

CHEAP MARRIAGES?

Social customs die hard and even a poor man in India would sell or mortgage his little possessions to get a daughter married and remain in debt all his life to satisfy this parental duty of his.

That may be the reason why Mr. M. Bhaktavatsalam, Home Minister of Madras, who is also in charge of Religious Endowments, is thinking of introducing

Over 104,600,000,000 cups of Indian TEA were drunk the world over in 1956


Last year, Indian tea earned the highest foreign exchange for our country —India sold 523 million lbs. of tea abroad and earned over Rs. 142 crores.
One lb. of tea (if it is brewed properly) gives an average of 200 cups—therefore, 523 million lbs. of tea will yield 104,600 million cups.
Tea, next to water, is the world's most popular beverage ; it refreshes, relieves fatigue and can be served at any time of the day. When your friends drop in, why not serve a cup of refreshing tea and revive happy memories ?
TEA BOARD INDIA

I am Tea – the symbol of friendship

PST 190

When a woman looks at a piece of jewellery in that manner, she doesn't think much of the man who brought it home. Anyway Sulochana and Sheikh Mukhtar seem to be sharing an unpleasant thought in "Do Ustad", a sensational thriller produced by the big guy himself.

cheap marriages for the middle classes. Marriages, he suggested, should be performed as a routine in temples, say for a small fee of Rs. 3. The total cost of a marriage should not go over Rs. 100|-.

Let us hope the system of cheap marriages is introduced soon. We may then be induced to believe in the socialistic pattern of society.

JAIL REFORM

White-capped Congressmen of India are all in earnest about jail reform. Perhaps they want the jail inmates to think kindly of them for a change.

The West Bengal Legislative Assembly adopted the Prisons (West Bengal Amendment) Bill on December 5, 1957, in which whipping as punishment for jail offences has been abolished. The Bill was piloted by Shrimati Purabi Mukherjee, Minister of State for Jail. Amendments for abolishing the use of gunny sacks and penal diets as punishments in jail were also passed.

EDUCATING TURKS

Most Muslim Middle East countries which were in the grip of primitiveness and backwardness are slowly beginning to realize the value of education in bettering the lot of citizens.

Though the Ministry of Education in Turkey was founded 100 years ago during the days of the Ottoman Empire, education acquired a new significance with the aggressive Mustapha Kemal who liberalized it and also introduced Latin side by side with the Arabic alphabet.

Today education in Turkey is free, secular and compulsory. One-tenth of the country's annual budget (amounting to £(T) 3,400,000) is allocated for the Ministry of Education. And most of this amount is spent on training facilities for new teachers. Schools—secondary, technical—are being built to accommodate more and more pupils. In 1956 there were 17,800 primary schools attended by 2,000,000 pupils.

University education is also getting more popular. There are four universities and a fifth one is coming up in the Eastern Provinces.

With plenty of American economic assistance, the Turks have no cause to worry. The dollars can help to educate them. For education is the basis for all national activity.

MATCH-MAKING BUREAU

The old French proverb, "Marriages are made in heaven and consummated on earth" has been taken seriously in Bucharest, Rumania, but with a slight modification. In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is a little known sub-department called the "marriage bureau" which arranges suitable matches particularly for officials of the higher grades serving abroad.

The office of the personnel directorate has a file which contains the photographs and other particulars of every unmarried woman in the Foreign Ministry. When a particular member is likely to be posted overseas he is allowed to select a bride from the file. The girls, of course, who are usually ambitious are prepared to take the risk of marrying the man even without knowing him.

Generally when one of the partners is a bad security risk, the couples are posted at two different places. The foreign service, usually has a high divorce rate and hence the "marriage bureau" tries to make the right matches.

So in Rumania marriages are made by the "marriage bureau" leaving heaven to itself.

SEX METAMORPHOSIS

Whatever be the reasons, sex metamorphosis seems to be getting more and more common. In fact it has even lost much of its horror since the much-publicized case of Christine Jorgensen, the American G.I. who turned a woman and then began to dress and behave like a woman.

Now comes news of Frank Little, a 40-year-old scientist of Rosythe, Scotland, who has changed sex but who wishes to live with his wife "as a sister" to keep the family intact. Little is the father of three—two sons aged 18 and 16 and a daughter 8 years old.

Some months ago biological and psychological changes began to take place in Frank's system and he started dressing like a woman. Said he: "At the present moment I am still physically a man and it may be two years before I know which course nature will take. I have every desire to be a woman. I even object to being called Mr. Little."

Frank can now join the ranks of the fair sex instead of steering a middle course of neither here nor there.

RED WITHOUT ROUGE

Is blushing something to be ashamed of or does it add to feminine charms? A Spanish doctor has some revealing things to say on ereuthophobia —that is the technical word for blushing.

The painted hoydens of today may not be interested in this art for they can demonstrate it in a second with Max Factor's rouge but spontaneous blushing is "a sign of a refined and modest disposition." It makes a plain girl look pretty and a pretty girl prettier.

Usually girls blush in their teens but if they are shy they can blush even when they are middle-aged. Blushing is inherited. Short-sighted girls are more likely to blush without their spectacles than when wearing them. Red heads are more prone to blushing than others.

In any case blushing is a healthy sign. But is a rare sight these days!

FEMALE ALCOHOLICS

Modern life in the U.S. has driven the American women to a new vice—alcoholism, and according to figures available from Yale University Centre for alcoholic studies, one out of every four or five alcoholics is a woman. There are more than 4½ million alcoholics in the U.S. and nearly three-quarters of a million of them happen to be women.

In 1940 there were 376,000 women alcoholics, in 1955 710,000. In the same period the rate of alcoholism among women over 20 years of age increased from 870 per 100,000 to 1290, i.e. almost by 50%.

The experts point out that because drinking is considered as sophisticated women take to it. It begins as a social grace and then heaps on the woman only disgrace. Most alcoholics drink to escape from tension. In Nevada where divorces take place by the hundreds female

Who bothers about those artificial plaits if the person wearing them is young and pretty? The plaits never come in the way. They can always be thrown aside. Shyama gives youth a new meaning in "Khazanchi", a sensational romance.

alcoholism is reported to have gone up nearly 500% since 1940.

It is a pity that American women are finding an easy way out. Only a return to simple life and high thought can save the nation. Too many luxuries cause only frustration and lead to tension. With Panchshila emphasizing co-existence in India, we see a lot of Indian women also taking to alcoholic drinks. It is a disgusting sight in Gandhiji's India to see some Gujarati women sitting in public bars and drawing drinks on their units—a very common sight in Bombay.

ANTI-DOWRY MEASURES

The dowry system has been a veritable curse to the poor people of India for centuries. Though many a social reformer in the past tried to get rid of this evil, the custom took deep roots in the traditions of the nation.

But a beginning to curb this evil was made in the Andhra Legislative Assembly on November 20, 1957, when a non-official Bill—the Andhra Dowry Prohibition Bill—was passed amidst cheers from the women members. The Bill, which had been hanging fire for the last two years, was originally sponsored by A. Kaleswara Rao. The Andhra Assembly is probably the first province in India to pass legislation against dowry. The Bill will come into force as soon as it receives assent.

The Bill holds the giving or taking of dowry as unlawful. And the offender shall be punishable with imprisonment not exceeding six months or with fine not exceeding Rs. 1000/- or both.

Whether the Bill will really act as a stoppage against dowry remains to be seen. Fear of punishment might prevent a few from giving or taking dowry. But the greedy ones are bound to take the risk, and we shall soon have a blackmarket in dowries. In India husbands will continue to be auctioned as long as women are not educated and made to earn their own livelihood.

SNAIL SPEED

Though Five-Year Plans came into fashion when Russia became a Soviet Communist Republic, China seems to believe in a 12-year plan to raise the living standards of her people both agriculturally and industrially.

Spreading progress over a larger period is not a bad idea. It gives the planners more breathing time and makes the people less restless. The Chinese Communist Party has drawn the plan for the period 1956-67 with ambitious targets. It envisages a doubling of China's per acreage yield of grain and cotton, increased livestock breeding, irrigation works, hydroelectric plants in rural areas, etc. It says, "Although industry holds the leading role, agriculture occupies an important position in the country's socialist construction."

Two years from the 12-year period have already elapsed. Chinese planning appears to be somewhat like our putting-the-cart-before-the-horse technique, where the plan actually gets ready only after we have spent crores over it.

MAN HUNTER

Psychiatrists in the U.S. get plenty of interesting cases for their study with every third man in the country suffering from neurosis, complexes and what not.

The case of 51-year-old Eddie Gein of Plainfield, is now being studied by Dr. Edward Kelleher, head of Chicago's Municipal Court Psychiatric Institute. Dr. Kelleher called Eddie "a schizophrenic" and his sordid crimes "unparalleled in modern history."

Eddie, who fed himself on crime and detective stories, was a chap living all by himself on a big farm. He had been

Mama's pet, a dominating and aggressive woman who enveloped him with her personality and refused to let him date other women. In 1945 Mama died leaving Eddie completely helpless.

One fine morning he shot Bernice Worden, a proprietor of a general store. When the police came on the scene, they discovered a horror-chamber in Eddie's farmhouse where the police found the body of Bernice dressed like a deer, ten skins of human heads, a box of noses, etc. It was clear that Eddie had committed many murders on the quiet.

Psychiatrists explained that this schizophrenic suffered from deep frustration because his mother had prevented him from loving other women. Gein is now under observation in Wisconsin's Central State Hospital.

BUTTOCKS SUPPLY BREASTS

Though our concept of civilization conjures the vision of improved human beings, it is only a theoretical truth. For the majority of human beings, civilization brings in its wake a strange neurosis that turns peace into restlessness and contentment into inordinate greed. Nowhere is this more true than in America where both men and women suffer neurosis on different account.

The American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery which met in San Francisco recently, discussed micromastia (abnormal smallness of the breasts) and the substances used to correct this defect. Many American women became emotionally upset over micromastia.

Dr. Gustave Aufricht of Manhattan noted that in the twenties the fashion for small breasts set by Clara Bow, the 'it' girl, was a craze. But today all women voted for big breasts (inspired by the Monroes and the Russells of the Hollywood screen). Dr. Gustave, in his operations, utilized the flesh of the woman's buttocks for enlarging the bosoms.

Dr. Milton Edgerton of John Hopkins University used a form of built-in falsies made of a polyvinyl sponge called Ivalon. After the operation, the woman got rid of her mental depression. The only drawback in this operation was that Ivalon does not remain spongy but shrinks 20% and becomes hard like a ball. In some cases the polyvinyl had to be removed in a second operation.

All the surgeons agreed that a better substance than Ivalon was needed—something which would remain soft for an indefinite period.

As long as the 'falsies' play their parts loyally, why bother? The man is excited and the woman is happy. Only a discerning female flesh-taster might feel the difference.

MYSTERY EYE

The pineal gland, a small gland attached to the mid-brain, has baffled doctors and scientists for years. Though its exact function is still not known, the ancients looked upon it as man's third or inner eye. The extract of the gland has been known to have a good effect on schizophrenics for a long time now. The trouble, however, was that the effects were not lasting as there were protein molecules in the extract.

Dr. Mark D. Altschule of Harvard University, therefore, managed to prepare a protein-free pineal extract which he injected into some schizophrenics. The patients started improving and kept up their improvement even after stoppage of injections.

One day's dose for one patient requires the pineal glands of 15 steers. Because of this difficulty, chemists are trying to synthesize the extract which can then be taken orally and also be made available in larger quantities.

How and why this extract works on schizophrenics is still a mystery. We should now call the pineal gland the mystery eye!

CURE FOR SHORT-SIGHT?

Myopia, better known as short-sight, is recognized as incurable. The least that myopic patients can do is to wear glasses all the time so that they can see clearly and carry on their normal duties of life.

But now some hopes have been raised by the findings of Dr. Robert J. Morrison of Pennsylvania on 1100 myopes, aged 7 to 19, reported at the National Contact Lens Congress in New York recently. All these myopes were fitted with contact lenses and after two years Dr. Morrison found that myopia had not got worse in any of these patients. In some it had decreased necessitating weaker lenses. Possibly this is due to the pressure which keeps the cornea from bulging more.

But then how many can afford contact lenses in India? Till contact lenses become cheap, we suggest that short-sighted Indians should take the homoeopathic drug, Pilocarpus Microphyllus 3, two doses a day, morning and evening. It is a powerful glandular stimulant.

RELIEF WITH ULTRASOUND

While ultrasound surgery has been used in the past on patients of arthritis, neuritis, etc., Dr. Russell Meyers, a neuro surgeon of Iowa, cured two patients suffering from advanced Parkinsonism, a disease in which the nerve nuclei at the base of the brain are afflicted.

This was the first time that ultrasound was used for this purpose. The frequency of the ultrasound was 980,000 cycles per second, while the ultrasound dose lasted just for 1.8 seconds. The left side of the two men was treated and the right side has now become normal. After a few months, the right side will be subjected to ultrasound to make the left normal.

The irradiators needed for the ultrasound surgery were developed after years of research by 39-year-old physicist William Justin Fry.

NEW ANAESTHESIA

Dr. J. T. Hayward Butt of Durban, in his address to the Medical Congress held at Durban recently, demonstrated the efficacy of a new anaesthetic for many types of operations.

The drug is called pethidine-daphtazole pacatal and it acts as an anaesthesia without dulling even slightly the mental and physical faculties of a person. In one operation where this drug was used two big toe nails were removed and the nail beds scraped. The patient was busy conversing during the operation. In another case

Desire has many faces — the sleepy one being the most intoxicating. Women know what to do with their eyes. When they half-close them, they often fill the cup of wine to the brim. Meena Kumari provides many exciting moments in "Kohinoor", a romantic tale produced by Dr. Sinha.

Agents : M/s. Bombay Premier Trading Co., Bombay.

the drug was used for a Caesarean operation.

Indians don't require an anaesthesia. Hunger acts as the best anaesthesia and makes them perpetually prostrate.

BLOOD IN COCOANUT

Scientists working in the Institute for Medical Research at Kuala Lumpur have been studying the possibility of using cocoanut milk as a substitute for blood plasma. The cocoanut milk is said to be similar in chemical composition to blood plasma containing vitamins, proteins, etc. In fact during the war some Japanese doctors had used this milk in place of blood plasma.

Experiments carried out in Colombia under Dr. J. P. F. Whelan, senior bacteriologist, point to some measure of success in this direction.

If cocoanut milk can be used in this manner, then Kerala can become the blood bank of India, where cocoanuts and Communists compete in multiplying themselves.

EFFECTS OF DISASTER

Two U.S. psychiatrists, Drs. Paul Friedman and Louis Linn, who were amongst the 750 and odd survivors of 'Andrea Doria', that had collided with the 'Stockholm' on July 26, 1956, had made a special study of the human effects of disaster.

Their findings published in the American Journal Of Psyciatry show that the old habit of saving "women and children first" is likely to have "disastrous psychological consequences", if the children are separated from both parents. Friedman and Linn also found that most of them were in a paranoiac "quest for a scapegoat" to explain away the tragedy. Then under the stress of disaster, many individuals who did not seem capable of leadership assumed responsibility.

These psychiatrists, therefore, feel that disaster training for men should not be only for nuclear warfare but also for peacetime disasters which can happen to anyone.

HUNDRED YEARS AHEAD

Scientists love to speculate on the shape of things to come in the next century, especially with Russia launching Sputniks. Seven eminent scientists of U.S. recently got together in New York and visualized a future world that makes the present one dull in comparison.

Said Dr. Albert Szent-Gyorgi, Nobel prize-winning biochemist: "In the next coming century we will steal the secrets of the plants and learn to make food out of sunshine. We may even learn to make food out of our supply of atomic energy..... By 2057 A.D. expeditions will have gone to Mars and Venus and exploratory voyages will have extended as far as Jupiter and Saturn."

Biologist Professor James Bonner of California predicted a tripling of the earth's present 2.7 billion population. He, however, added that there won't be starvation because man by then would learn "to eat steaks made from vegetable protein flavoured with tempting tasty synthetics and made chewy with plaster matrix."

Dr. Hermann J. Muller, a geneticist of Indiana University, foresaw the popularity of artificial insemination and even test-tube births (parthenogenesis) in man's desire to improve his species, in spite of religious restrictions.

Of course you'll have a Capstan !

That is not what we meant at all....

We know that according to the dictionary a capstan is

'an upright machine turned by spokes

so as to wind upon it a cable which draws something,

generally the anchor on board ship'.

But according to usage, capstan means

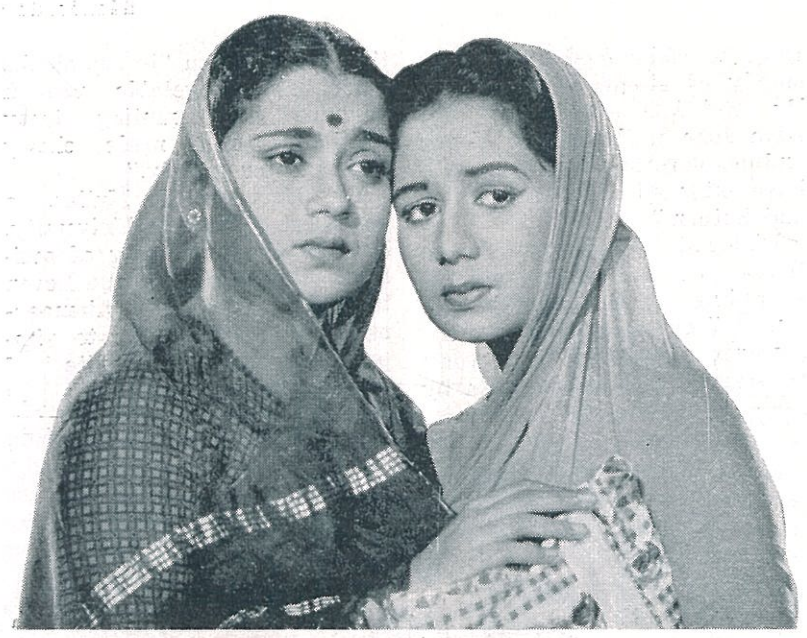
Capstan cigarettes—cigarettes which give

one the best in smoking pleasure.

"Better buy Capstan

they're blended better"

CAP/328A



The sisters—one with the face of a young mother, the other with a widowed childhood. Pandari Bai and Nanda make AVM's "Bhabhi", a thrilling document of pathos.

A better man, Dr. Muller thought, could be produced by having banks of frozen germ cells from dead foster parents and the transfer of the nucleus of a germ cell of a genius into a living egg in a test-tube or on slide to re-create a human being as genetically identical to the man of the past as an identical twin.

Today these speculations may sound idle but a hundred years hence, who knows, they might become realities. The evil genius in man can invent any unearthly thing.

"CHILD" FISH

Red China has announced the discovery of a strange kind of fish, called the "child fish", that climbs trees, eats birds and has no fins and lives in Chimen County.

It is three to six feet in length and greyish or black in colour. It has four "feet" and it eats other aquatic animals but it can also crawl from the water and climb trees to eat small birds. It makes a sound like the crying of a baby, hence the name "child fish".

The fish seems to have developed a distinct individuality of its own as if to spite the regimented Communist dictatorship. Who knows, some day the 'child fish' might swallow a few Communists on land.

LIGHTNING SPEED CAMERA

At a conference recently held in Leningrad by the Institute of Chemical Physics, Soviet scientists said that they had invented a camera capable of shooting 32 million photographs in a second. No details of the camera, however, were given.

Soviet Russia's advance in the technological field is now well-known but the figure of 32 million photographs per second sounds rather a staggering proposal.

CHEAP CONVERTER

Dr. Wolney C. Wilson, a physicist of General Electric's Research Laboratories, U.S., has developed a new thermionic converter which can convert heat into electricity.

The 16 by 2½ inch glass tube is filled with low pressure gas and holds two parallel metal electrodes. The converter has resulted in an 8% efficiency in converting heat energy to electrical energy.

WEATHER SIMPLIFIED

The study of weather requires tedious calculations to interpret data from a weather balloon flight. But the Americans who believe in simplying their work with the help of electronic machines and computers, are these days proudly displaying an "electronic weather man", developed by the U.S. Army, which can detect accurately vital high altitude weather conditions.

It tracks the balloon and a built-in "electronic brain" does the figuring immediately. This is the first system to chart high velocity winds.

LIGHT FROM ATOM

The atom is being used increasingly for a variety of purposes as man's knowledge on this subject is expanding fast.

British scientists have now developed atomic lamps which require no outside power source.

These lamps have a range of over 500 yards and will be used on railway warning systems or to lighten up navigational warnings at sea.

BILLION DOLLAR ATOMS

Though the atom has a great value in a variety of fields, it is the most expensive power that a country can have. Only a rich, dollar-bursting country like the U.S. can indulge in costly schemes of atomic power running into millions and millions of dollars. The reason is that nuclear fission projects take a long time to complete and by the time they are ready, the original estimates have gone up considerably.

At the national conference of the Atomic Industrial Forum held in New York, the following figures were given: The original estimate of the atom-based power station to be constructed by the Consolidated Edison Power Company of New York was 55,000,000 dollars. Now it has gone up to 90,000,000 dollars. A project near Detroit estimated to cost 44,000,000 dollars has gone up by 10% while another at Massachusetts costing 31,000,000 dollars has increased to 41,000,000 dollars.

Increase in original estimates of projects is nothing new to us. Without using the costly atom, our Bhakra Nangal, Damodar Valley and Hirakud have nearly sunk us into low financial depths. In India we have to make allowance for higher costs as we have to provide for feeding quite a few corrupt officials.

MORE PAPER

Increased production is a sure sign of prosperity and the one country that seems to be marching forward in this respect is Sweden.

Last year, the Swedish mills produced 1,570,000 tons of paper and board. The exports reached the 920,000 ton figures and earned £62,000,000 by way of foreign exchange.

Last year's figure is 66% higher than the post-war peak reached in 1937 and 15 times as high as the output in 1900.

Everyone now wants Nargis to be a housewife. Her maternal charm seems to have thrilled the people. But then we miss the Nargis that once shivered on the frontiers of youth looking out for a warm heart to lead her into the torrid zone of romance. Anyway, let us see what seasoned emotions Nargis and Balraj Sahni display in "Ghar Sansar", a domestic story directed by V. M. Vyas for Pushpa Pictures.

When women are surprised they expect men to find the explanation. Here is a husband-and-wife situation between Nirupa Roy and Ashok Kumar from "Karigar", a social theme directed by Vasant Joglekar.

Indians only talk of increasing production. The increase is seen only on paper and that is why our second Five-Year Plan has failed so miserably.

SWEDISH SUBWAYS

The first complete trans-urban underground railway system linking the existing suburban subways of Stockholm went into operation. The total mileage of subways is now 24 miles with 40 stations. The Swedes spent £40,000,000 for this comfort and to some extent it has solved their traffic problems.

Let us hope the Swedes sometimes leave their subways and come overground for fresh air.

MONKEYS FOR SPACE

India is a generous country in some respects. Take for instance, our fast-multiplying population. Our women never let us down in this expectation. Then we have a large monkey population, which also competes with humans. But human beings are ingenious. They know how to get rid of them and yet earn some foreign exchange.

For the last few years we have been exporting monkeys to the U.S. and now Soviet Russia has started taking a big supply from us. In the first two weeks of December we exported 34,000 monkeys to Moscow and many more will probably follow.

The Soviets are using the monkeys in their experiments on space travelling. The monkey being the nearest to a human being might give correct space reactions as human beings would give under similar circumstances. So far monkeys have been used in research work on polio and other diseases.

POWER OF LENIN

The world's first atom-powered ice-breaker, 'Lenin' was launched by Soviet Russia on December 5, 1957, at Leningrad.

So far the American-constructed 'Glacier' had taken the people's salute but now the Soviet one is considered to be more powerful. It has a horsepower of 40,000 as compared to Glacier's 22,000.

The Lenin will sail for many months without touching any ports. The Soviets have again added a feather to their cap of varied achievements.

SALTY TO SWEET

Why God made sea water salty may be a mystery to us but chemists are busy probing into it so that so much of real good water need not go waste and unutilized.

Recently Dr. O. B. Volckman, a South African chemist, announced that a 3-million-gallon a day plant would start operating some time during 1958 in the Orange Free State. The plant will desalt brackish mine water and cost 30 cents per thousand gallons. The cost would increase if sea water was used.

Gilbert V. Lenin of Washington's Resources Research Inc., suggested the use of algae in distilling sea water. The algae, minute plant organisms, store up salt during the day and release it at night. Levin's is a theoretical suggestion and has still to be worked out on a practical scale.

PREVENTING CORROSION

At the second World Metallurgical Conference held in Chicago recently, Dr. Earl A. Gulbransen explained the reasons for "stress corrosion cracking" in metals from the time of their manufacture.

The cracking results from tiny crystals of matter or platelets. Dr. Gulbransen observed them through an electron microscope and found that the surface of the steel had numerous tiny oxide whiskers. These crystal growths are chemical axes and their growth can be checked.

The U.S. metal industry spends 5 billion dollars annually to counteract corrosion. The new knowledge of crystals will bring down this bill considerably.

CAN YOU WRITE?

If you have ideas and if you can put them on paper in an attractive manner, in words of sketches, Filmindia is interested in buying them. Unique and unusual contributions on art, travel, fashions, politics, culture, music, dancing, industry, commerce, insurance, trades, professions, economics, science and all other fields of human activity will be considered and suitably paid for if accepted. Articles on films are not required.

Short stories on Indian life up to 3000 words are also invited. All material should be neatly typed and double-spaced on one side of the paper. Return postage should be enclosed.

Our payments are good and prompt. Address all manuscripts to the Editor, Filmindia, Fort, Bombay 1.

NICKEL-FREE STEEL

After a long time our laboratories appear to have turned out something useful that will cut down on our imports of stainless steel which is said to be in the region of 7000 tons annually.

The process, developed by the National Metallurgical Laboratory at Jamshedpur, uses manganese and nitrogen instead of nickel in the manufacture of stainless steel. The director of the Laboratory said that the setting up of a new plant for this purpose would cost about Rs. 1 crore but the saving that would result in foreign exchange would be 10 crores of rupees.

The manufacture of stainless steel without nickel is likely to benefit some 200 industries, either directly or indirectly. The nickel-free stainless steel was tested in America and found to be of good quality.

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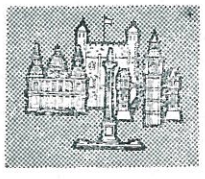

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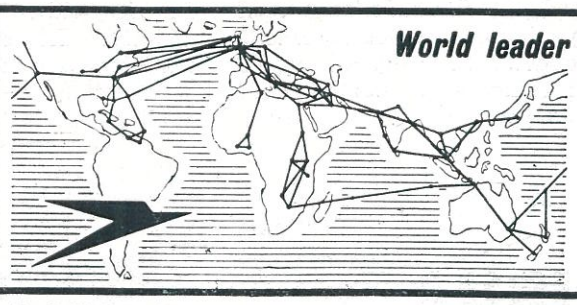

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Epidemics In India V

DIPHTHERIA

THE THROTTLER OF CHILDREN

When little children die only parents weep. No one cares to shed a tear over young deaths. In this world of material achievements more tears are wasted on the death of an old celebrity than on millions of babies who die unknown and unsung all over the world. The old oak always falls with a crash that wakes up the neighbourhood while its little acorns drop in thousands without being noticed.

But to the genuine lover of humanity the little buds that die before seeing even a season of blossom cause more anguish than the inevitable fading of an old flower with petals plucked by the hands of Time.

Truly has an Urdu poet said,

"Phool to do din bahare jan fizan dikhla gaye
Hasrat un gunchon pe hai jo bin khile murjha gaye."

When life is a bud how easily can it be plucked? It needs but one little wrench to separate it from the vital plant. Diphtheria is one more dreadful wrench which takes millions of little children to heaven without much ceremony every year all over the world.

The essentially Christian science of allopathy naively calls it an acute infective disease characterised by localised membrane formation and toxaemic disturbances. The layman will understand nothing by this pompous definition of a cruel death that awaits our little children.

In fact Diphtheria is too rapid and dreadful a disease to be treated by the lay-healer. An expert physician is needed every time because the very diagnosis of the disease needs a certain amount of scientific knowledge and experience. And yet as these articles are written essentially for the layman, I shall try to simplify the description of this disease as much as possible.

THE DISEASE PICTURE

Diphtheria is a specific, contagious and often epidemic disease caused by the Klebs-Loeffler bacillus in the throat. It poisons the whole system by its toxins causing exudation (discharge or sweat) of the lymph on the lining of the mouth, fauces (the narrow passage from the mouth to the pharynx) and upper parts of the air passages, or, sometimes on a scraped portion of a skin, accompanied by general prostration.

It is a general disease though it throws up local distinctive symptoms. It will be therefore a great error to treat only the local mischief, leaving the rest of the human economy alone.

Though allopathic scientists, with their usual penchant for divisions and subdivisions, have described various kinds of diphtherias such as: faucial, laryngeal, nasal, aural, conjunctival, vulval or anal, cutaneous, haemorrhagic and bacteriological and further divided the intensities of these varieties in three divisions such as: the gravis, the intermedius and the mitis, for the purposes of this article it is enough to identify this dreadful disease in two varieties: the Simple and the Malignant.

Fortunately, the Simple variety is more common and is easily curable. It has mild symptoms like: slight difficulty of swallowing, pain in the throat, burning skin, pain in the limbs, a headache and sometimes a little vomiting and diarrhoea in the early stages. This type can be readily cured by one of the remedies given here.

The Malignant type, however, comes out of the blue like a thunderbolt and strikes down its victim with little mercy. And I have seen it strike very often the only child of a family and have been puzzled at the design of Destiny. Malignant Diphtheria announces itself with **severe** fever, rigors (convulsive shuddering or tremor), vomiting, purging, **sudden great** prostration, restlessness, **fear** and **anxiety.** The face is flushed, the throat sore, the mucous membrane bright red, the skin hot, and the tonsils are swollen with **grey** or **white** patches of deposit on them. These patches gradually enlarge till one patch joins the other ultimately forming a **false membrane** (a fibre-like layer of tissue) in the throat, making swallowing and even breathing difficult. In some cases this false membrane blocks the whole throat. This membrane has the look of **dirty wash-leather** and from between the true and the false membranes oozes a bloody discharge lending to the breath a foul and offensive odour. This exudation has an easily crumbling slough. The glands of the neck are always swollen like a "bull neck", with often some pain in the ear accompanied by an inevitable stiffness in the neck. At this stage the inflammation is liable to extend **rapidly** to the nose, windpipe and even to the air-tubes of the lungs. The patient is soon in a stupor and experiences great difficulty in breathing and swallowing and must die from suffocation unless the false membrane is forcibly ejected. Surgeons call this operation Tracheotomy. In extreme cases it often saves life.

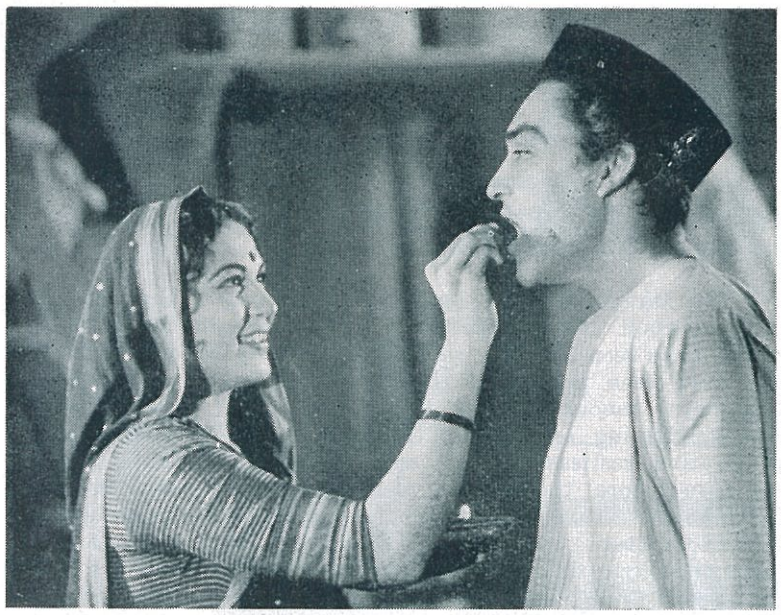
Symptoms for the red light of danger are: Increase of foul breath, a quick, feeble **or** very slow pulse, nose bleeding, drowsiness and delirium, nose lining affected, difficult and laboured breathing, suppressed or albuminous urine and increase in temperature.

The predisposing causes, in short, are: 1. Age: Chiefly attacks children from 1 to 15 years but adults sometimes. 2. Season & Climate: Mainly in tropical and temperate zones during winter and autumn. 3. Springs out of Scarlet Fever or Measles and other debilitating diseases and is often epidemic. 4. Attacks both sexes equally in childhood; later females predominate. 5. The disease spreads by **direct contact,** through **droplet infection** (as in kissing or coughing), by fomites, through pencils **sucked** by children, **utensils, kerchiefs,** milk, **water,** and **milk pots.** Even the cow's udders may be infected. 6. Second attacks are possible as the disease gives only short-lived immunity. 7. Incubation period, usually 3 to 4 days but often extends up to 10 days.

But it is not enough to get through an attack of Diphtheria. The disease is so poisonous that it leaves behind a tragic heritage of any of the following sequelae or all of them together: deafness, nasal catarrh, paralysis of the extremities, feeble heart, muscular rheumatism, general debility, chronic difficulty in swallowing, hoarseness, loss of nervous power, etc.

THE DEADLY SERUMS

As is usual with the allopathic design of making a profitable industry out of human distress, a number of immunity serums prepared from rabbits, guinea-pigs and horses have been put on the market to prevent and cure Diphtheria. The A.P.T. serums (alum-toxoid) are used for children and the T.A.F. serums (toxoid-antitoxin floccules) are used for adults and adolescents. The dose of these serums ranges from 8000



Nirupa Roy is extremely good at feeding screen husbands. See how neatly she puts the "prasad" into the mouth of Ashok Kumar in "Karigar", a sensational theme directed by Vasant Joglekar.

units to 150,000 units with doubtful results, though some doctors swear by this treatment and insist upon this serum treatment being the most effective, both for prophylactic and curative purposes.

The statistics collected by me, however, prove otherwise. In Germany they had 46,905 diphtheria cases in 1928. After this the Germans, with their usual thoroughness, decided to immunize all children between 1 and 15 years with the help of Diphtheria serums. The result was that in 1938, diphtheria cases jumped to 149,490. In 1923 France reported 11,033 cases of Diphtheria. In spite of a long immunization campaign the figures went up to 23,704 cases in 1930, while Sweden **without any immunization** had only 113 cases without any deaths in 1938.

Besides, the prophylactic use of serum has created its own serious problems. It has been found that immunized children not only become more sensitive to diphtheria for the first six months after the inoculation, but that a good many of them become carriers of the disease thus exposing others to the danger of infection. In Lubeck, North Germany, **nearly all** the children inoculated at a public institution developed tuberculosis. Many children are reported to have died of blood poisoning three months after the inoculations.

These tragedies are understandable seeing that these serums, not being even human serums, are usually made by being passed through animal bodies, of say, horses, guinea-pigs or rabbits, and therefore never really amalgamate with human serum. Human life being a design of electrical radiation within the cells and the radiations in a human being, whose Biblical span of life is three score and ten, being totally different to the radiations in animals, a horse living only 24 years at the maximum, the introduction of an animal serum into a human body can be compared to a 120-volt bulb being put into a 240-volt socket with the result that the entire circuit is fused. It is but natural that with such a foreign element introduced into the human economy there would be a sudden shock, a lowering of blood pressure, dizziness and often collapse and sudden death. It may not happen the first time with a certain amount of natural resistance in every man but it must some day with repeated inoculations as they all tend to wear out natural resistance gradually.

Modern antitoxin is, however, claimed to be a highly refined product and being almost protein-free is considered to be safer than the serum of the olden days. But it is not yet regarded as an absolute guarantee against the infection of diphtheria. It is, however, supposed to increase the resistance to the disease.

THE DRUG PICTURES

Once again I repeat that Diphtheria is a dangerous disease and the services of an expert homoeopathic physician should be requisitioned. The physician is needed firstly to identify the disease with the help of symptoms—diagnosis of this disease without a bacteriological examination from the throat swab being very difficult—secondly to keep a cool mind and make a prescription in the face of almost frightening stages of collapse of the patient.

But in this God-forsaken country, cursed with poverty and pestilence, it is so difficult to find an expert physician willingly answering the choking call of a dying child. I am told that there are some expert homoeopathic physicians in Calcutta but they need Rs. 64|- per visit to see the face of the sufferer. Where is this money to be brought from? In poverty-stricken Bengal Rs. 64 will buy two bags of rice which will keep six hungry people away from heaven for a month. The fight for survival in this cursed country is between the ever-dying helpless little child and the ever-hungry unemployed adult. The latter being the stronger of the two survives and hunger takes all the money, with disease getting none.

The allopathic physician with his anti-diphtheric serum with a dose ranging from 8000 units to 150,000 is verily an angel of death. In my early youth I have seen over a dozen little babies dying of diphtheria, choked so completely as to be unable to swallow even the last gulp of death. A dozen times I have heard the allopathic doctors say: "He is sinking. Nothing can be done now." And helplessly I watched these little gods struggling to be free from the design for living given to them by their fond parents. I had neither strength nor knowledge in those days to be able to stretch my helping hand to persuade those little gods to grace the world a little longer. Tears come into my eyes as I remember those deaths. They were murders of innocence by instruments of ignorance.

Let us, therefore, go back to the poor man's hut of suffering where a little one is lying helpless, held by the throat by the dreadful diphtheria. For that little sufferer I prescribe a few harmless and inexpensive homoeopathic drugs and if one such little god is saved this article would not have been written in vain.

Please study the symptoms carefully before choosing the drug. The outstanding symptoms of a particular drug are printed in bold types. These bold-type symptoms distinguish one drug from the other.

Mercurius Cyanatus 30 This is Cyanide of Mercury in common language. It is one of the best remedies we have for Diphtheria and because of the hydrocyanic acid in its composition, it covers most of the symptoms of Diphtheria. Its symptoms are great, **sudden** prostration, **very high** pulse, fainting, collapse, trembling with feebleness, nausea, **icy** coldness of body, brownish and blackish tongue, foul breath, **nose bleed,** loss of appetite **profuse** saliva. Greyish-white membranes inside mouth, cheeks and on tonsils. It is specially a remedy in the **malignant** type of diphtheria with even the **nostrils** affected. Method of medication: Dissolve 8 pills or put 4 drops in four ounces of water and give a teaspoonful as a dose every 15 minutes till improvement sets in. After improvement three doses a day:

Diphtherinum 200: This is a homeopathic nosode. It is better to begin the treatment with a **single** dose of this and then switch over to Mercury Cyanide or any other indicated remedy. Alternately, a single dose of this remedy should be given on the third day, early morning. Usually a single dose is enough but if necessary the dose may be repeated after a week or even earlier according to the urgency of the situation. **Please do not give this nosode in low potencies, for then it will reproduce the symptoms of the disease.**

Apis Mellifica 3x This is the popular honey-bee in a drug form. Swelling is the first important symptom. The **"bull-neck"** — external swelling on the throat. **Stinging** pain— as if a bee has stung. **Sore, blistered** tongue. Membrane on either tonsil-greyish, dirty-looking and tough. **Swallowing most difficult** owing to swelling. Much prostration, dry hot skin and restlessness. **Suppression** of **the urine** calls for this remedy. It is useful when the disease comes **rapidly** and **violently,** the **whole** throat filling up with a **swelling,** the uvula **hanging** down like transparent sack filled with water. Danger of **suffocation** by closure of throat and larynx. It is the stage for the Surgeon's Tracheotomy. Apis often saves this situation and avoids operation. **Dose** Dissolve 8 pills or 4 drops in 4 ounces of water and from the mixture give a teaspoonful every fifteen minutes till improvement takes place. Then reduce the doses to three a day.

Arsenic Alba 12 When you are at your wit's end, think of this great drug. It may **save** the patient when other remedies have failed. It is most useful in the **last** stages of the disease when the **prostration is very marked, restlessness, thirst, foul breath,** foetid discharges from the lining membrane of the nostrils and when in spite of other remedies the patient has been **constantly going downhill.** Arsenic will save the situation under such circumstances. Dose: Dissolve 8 pills in 4 ounces of water and give a teaspoonful every 15 minutes till improvement takes place. Thereafter three doses a day.

Kali Bichromicum 30 This remedy is more useful in the **croupoid** form of the disease. Its peculiar symptoms are: **deep** ulceration and **thick,** tenacious exudation, often streaked with blood. The membrane looks **yellow** and the cough is **croupy** with **pain** in the chest. **Pain** extending to **neck** and **shoulders.** Yellow coated or

Indian women are not built for jeans and jerseys. Their equipment needs another wrapping altogether. But the impact of the West is making nice Indian women look new European gadgets these days. Let us see what Geeta Bali, one of our talented artistes, is doing in this outfit in "Aji Bas Shukriya", a love tale.

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dry, red tongue. It is most useful in the later stage of the disease when the **slough** has commenced to **separate.**
Dose: Dissolve 8 pills or 4 drops in 4 ounces of water and give a teaspoonful every 15 minutes till improvement sets in. Thereafter three doses a day.

Kali Muriaticum 12x This is Schuessler's famous biochemic remedy. It is excellent and deserves a high place. The symptoms which call for it are: pain on swallowing, white deposit in the throat. It is better suited for the croupoid form.
Dose: Take 5 grains of powder or 4 pills six times a day in acute condition. In very small children dilute the medicine in 2 ounces of water and give a teaspoonful every 15 minutes till improvement sets in.

Phytolacca 3 **Pain** in the **back and limbs,** general aching all over, with great prostration. Swollen throat, swallowing almost impossible, **pain** shooting to **ears,** thick-coated tongue, foul breath, **swollen** glands, **high-rapid-weak** pulse, **greyish** membrane.
Dose: Any of the methods described above.

Other remedies which a qualified physician may consider are: Kali Permanganicum, Lachesis, Lycopodium, Bromine, Muriatic Acid, Nitric Acid, Carbolic Acid, Lac Caninum, Rhus Tox, Baptisia, Kali Chloratum, Arsenic Iodide, etc. It will, however, be difficult for the layman to pin down their peculiar symptoms.

Accessory treatment: Suck small pieces of ice to prevent vomiting and to check the secretion of the mucous. Warm water sponging will do a world of good. Drink cold water freely. Use an enema to move the bowels. Absolute rest and least movement are essential to avoid danger to the heart. To maintain the patient's strength make him swallow eggs beaten in milk, arrowroot, sago or pearl barley well prepared. A little brandy will help in case of extreme prostration. Keep the room cool and clean. **Local treatment to the throat is dangerous and should be avoided.**

One of the legacies of this disease is the paralysis of muscles. But they usually recover within four weeks. Complications and after-effects can be many, but they can all be avoided by a **weekly** dose of **Diphtherinum 200**—just a single dose for four weeks and then a single dose once a month for three months.

During convalescence much caution and patience are required to be observed as a relapse may occur at any time. **The heart must be very carefully watched as there is always the danger of a sudden heartfailure due to sudden movements.** Absolute rest in bed, if possible, for at least 8 weeks is the minimum necessity. A change of climate thereafter can do a lot of good.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Avoid the allopathic serum if possible. Choose one of the two homeopathic remedies given here for immunity from attack:

1. **Diphtherinum 200,** 4 pills, one dose a week during an epidemic for four weeks. Otherwise a single dose at a long interval is enough.
2. **Mercurius Cyanatus 30,** one dose of 4 pills, every alternate day during an epidemic. Otherwise one dose a week for a month.

The two drugs mentioned above can also be alternated. **Diphtherinum 200** may be taken first followed by a dose of **Mercurius Cyanatus 30** four days later and so on for four weeks during a raging epidemic.

Cesspools and gas poisoning from the sewers usually start the trouble. It is useless to tell the layman to look after these. It is a municipal job which is never properly done but if it is possible for our people to keep their homes clean and well-ventilated, the infection can be postponed. But under modern conditions of crowded travel, unhygienic slums and malnutrition any personal precautions are virtually useless.

The medicines mentioned above can be had in pills (size No. 30) or in liquid form. Under all circumstances the drugs should be bought from reliable homoeopathic chemists.

Those who use these remedies as a result of this article are requested to send me as detailed a report as possible of their experience explaining the circumstances under which the drugs were used and with what result. An intelligent and truthful report will help me in further research, particularly if the symptoms peculiar to the patient are closely observed and noted down. Such reports may be posted separately marked "Personal" to me at 55, Sir Pherozeshah Mehta Road, Fort, Bombay 1.

18-12-1957. Baburao Patel.

MEENA KUMARI—

When beauty wears the complexion of dignity, it creates an unusual halo round itself. Some women have faces which instinctively inspire and demand respect. Meena Kumari, our popular star, is one such woman. She gives a fine performance in "Kohinoor", a sensational tale of love produced by Dr. V. N. Sinha and directed by S. U. Sunny. —Naushad, our great maestro, gives the music.

Whoever invented the telephone gave women one more instrument for torturing poor men. The woman at the other end is a different person altogether. She is far away to tantalize and escape without a scratch. And does she miss the chance? Madhubala takes some rare risks with the lover miles away in "Kal Hamara Hai", a sensational love tale produced and directed by K. Amarnath.

Vyjayantimala Sprinkles Emotion In "Piya Milan" — Mala Sinha And Sunil Dutt Lend Romance A New Meaning In "Duniya Na Mane" — "Bhabhi" Has Mass Appeal — "Raj Tilak" Scheduled For Release In February — Nutan Wears A New Personality In "Chandan" — "Mother India" Going Strong — "Raagini", A Love Tale, Fast Nearing Completion.

R. R. PRODUCTIONS (Bombay)

Director T. R. Raghunath has already shot a few sequences of "Piya Milan" starring Vyjayantimala and Sriram. "Piya Milan" is a story of two lovers who have to surmount a mountain of obstacles to unite finally in love. The situations that are built up in "Piya Milan" need plenty of emotion and talented Vyjayantimala sprinkles it in abundance. The dialogue and lyrics are by Harsha while some attractive tunes have been composed by Ramesh.

VISHWADWEEP CHITRA (Bombay)

"Duniya Na Mane", starring Mala Sinha and Sunil Dutt and directed by V. Avdhoot, is more than half-way through at the Kardar Studios. Mala and Sunil are teamed for the first time and they have many love scenes in "Duniya Na Mane". The very freshness of their youthful romance gives a new meaning to the picture. Supporting this pair are Sheikh Mukhtar, Sulochana, Helen, Daisy Irani and Bhagwan. Rajendra Krishan has written the lyrics which have been set to music by Madan Mohan. Produced by M. M. Rehni and K. Aggarwal, "Duniya Na Mane" appears to have the right type of box-office ingredients to make it a success. The world rights of this picture are with United Finance Corporation, Marina House, Bombay.

AVM PRODUCTIONS (Madras)

At a crowded premiere held on Thursday, December 19, at the Swastik, Bombay, Producer A. V. Meiyappan released his domestic social "Bhabhi", starring Pandari Bai, Balraj Sahni, Shyama and others. "Bhabhi" is a Hindi remake of the old Tamil hit "Kula Deivam", which had won the President's Certificate of Merit for the best film in the regional language. "Bhabhi" is a story of the joint family of a family of four brothers. The family is broken up for a while owing to greed and hatred of one of the wives but in the end there is peace and harmony. But what makes "Bhabhi" great and outstanding are the highly emotional performances of Pandari Bai and Balraj Sahni. It is a picture for the masses and no wonder "Bhabhi" is attracting the crowds at the different places where it has been released.

GEMINI STUDIOS (Madras)

The much-awaited spectacular Gemini production "Raj Tilak" produced and directed by S. S. Vasan, has been scheduled for an all-India premiere on February 28, 1958. Vasan is busy giving the finishing touches to this ambitious picture in which the complete box-office formula has been incorporated. It is, what one would call, a sure hit and Vasan having an accurate knowledge of mathematics is not likely to make a mistake. From all the studio gossip, "Raj Tilak" is going to beat the record of that one-time hit "Chandralekha". "Raj Tilak" has two charming stars—Vyjayantimala and Padmini — and Ganeshan and a supporting cast consisting of Jagirdar, Pran, Lalita Pawar, Kumar, Agha, Master Romi, Manmohan Krishna, Shammi and Meenakshi. Filmgoers don't have to stretch their patience too long for "Raj Tilak" will be on the screen before long.

DOSSI FILMS (Bombay)

Why does one and the same one in the other? This is a question which many filmgoers ask themselves quite often. The secret is two-fold: correct casting and proper presentation. Producer Fali Mistry, one of our most skilled cameramen, knows this secret too well and in "Chandan" you will see a beautiful Nutan with an absolutely new personality. Nutan has a dance number all to herself in "Chandan" and this will be shot in Eastmancolor. Then there is Kamala Laxman, our best Bharat Natyam dancer, who has an important role and an opportunity to execute many thrilling dances. Others in the cast are Kishore Kumar, Karan Dewan, Shyama, Mala Sinha, Pran and Johnny Walker. Music is by Madan Mohan. "Chandan" is fast nearing completion and is reported to have become a feast for the eyes with Fali's excellent photography.

MEHBOOB PRODUCTIONS (Bombay)

What we had predicted about "Mother India" is being borne out truthfully by the record box-office collections that are pouring into the Mehboob coffers from all over India. At the Liberty, Bombay, "Mother India" has settled down to a long run and is entertaining the crowds with its touching story and the classic portrayal of Nargis in the main role of Radha, the peasant woman.

ASHOK PICTURES (Bombay)

"Raagini" is shaping very well in the hands of director Rakhan who is reported to have made it a picture worth waiting for. Young or old, everyone loves a love tale and "Raagini" is one such story dramatized by Padmini, Ashok Kumar, Kishore Kumar and Jabeen through many emotional sequences. "Raagini" is in the final stages of production and is expected to be released sometime in early 1958. Photography is by Ratanlal Nagar. O.P. Nayyar has given catchy music in "Ragini" to add to its box-office value.

SADIQ PRODUCTIONS (Bombay)

Four reels of "Khota Paisa", produced and directed by Sadiq, are ready. Once again popular actress Shyama is cast as the heroine supported by Jeevan, Johnny Walker, Amir Bano, Dhumal and S. N. Bannerji. Veena has been assigned a key role in "Khota Paisa". Sadiq has entrusted the music of "Khota Paisa" to Madan Mohan, though originally O. P. Nayyar was to have done it. Sadiq's next is a hilarious musical comedy called "Jhatt Mangni Patt Biah", the paper work of which is getting ready. Here again viva-

A. S. Nathan, the Controller of Productions at the Raman Studios, is a real novelty-hunter in bringing new entertainment. He is on his way to Singapore to find out picturesque locations for "Jwala". Why does he not put a hundred Chinese dancing girls in the new picture?

cious Shyama will play the heroine opposite comedian Johnny Walker.

RAJSHRI PRODUCTIONS (Bombay)

Rajshri has bought the world rights of Anjali Pictures' "Suvarna Sundari". This Telugu hit, which did half-a-dozen silver jubilees at different places, is now being made into a Hindi picture with Anjali Devi playing the lead opposite Nageswar Rao. Shyama, Agha, Sapru, Radhakishan, Daisy Irani and Niranjan Sharma have been assigned important roles in this picture. Direction is by Vedantam Raghavaiya who has quite a few box-office hits to his credit while Inder Raj Anand has already begun to perfect the screenplay. Lata's songs, tuned by Adi Narayan Rao—also the producer of the film—were recorded at Madras in December. Rajshri seems to have begun the New Year with good luck as the remake of "Suvarna Sundari" is bound to repeat the box-office story once again.

RAMAN STUDIOS (Bombay)

Director Javar Sitaraman shot a few dramatic scenes of Shri Vallabh Productions' "Raja Beta" featuring Ajit, Motisagar, Kamini Kaushal and Shashikala. Others in the cast are Raj Mehra, Shammi, Randhir, Helen, Bhagwan and Master Daboo. Roshan has composed the music.

MUKTI FILMS (Bombay)

Producer Subhash Desai has taken up a big historical subject, starring Nirupa Roy and Bharat Bhoosan. It is "Samrat Chandragupta", a favourite emperor with our film producers. At the studios, director Babhubhai Mistry shot a sequence where Nirupa Roy, the leading lady, is nearly crushed to death by a mad elephant, but saved in the nick of time by the hero, Bharat Bhooshan.

NAYA SANSAR INTERNATIONAL (Bombay)

"Pardesi", the first Indo-Soviet production, is doing well at the Lamington and Kohinoor in Bombay. Jointly directed by K. Ahmed Abbas and V. M. Pronin, "Pardesi" in spite of its Communist propaganda, is pleasing to the eyes with India's scenic and sculptural beauty captured in lovely Sovcolor. Oleg, a popular Russian actor, plays the leading role of Afanasi Nikitin, a Russian traveller, who is said to have visited India nearly five hundred years ago. Nargis and Padmini add plenty of sex appeal to "Pardesi" while Balraj Sahni comes out in flying colours with his fine portrayal of Sakharam.

PRASAD PRODUCTIONS (Madras)

"Sharada", starring Meena Kumari and Raj Kapoor and skilfully directed by Prasad, has appealed to almost all classes of audiences by virtue of its moving story. It has, therefore, done good business everywhere. In "Sharada" Meena Kumari has a great role and she does it like the consummate artiste that she is, with understanding and perfection. The world rights of "Sharada" are with Rajshri Productions.

EAGLE FILMS (Bombay)

Producer F. C. Mehra has nearly completed "Mujrim" starring Ragini, Padmini, Johnny Walker, Shubha Khote, etc. Another one under production is "Aji Bas Shukriya" in which talented actress Geeta Bali makes a come-back. She plays the heroine opposite Suresh, supported by Kamal Mehra, Shammi, Gulab and Johnny Walker. Direction is by Mohd. Hussain while music is by Roshan.

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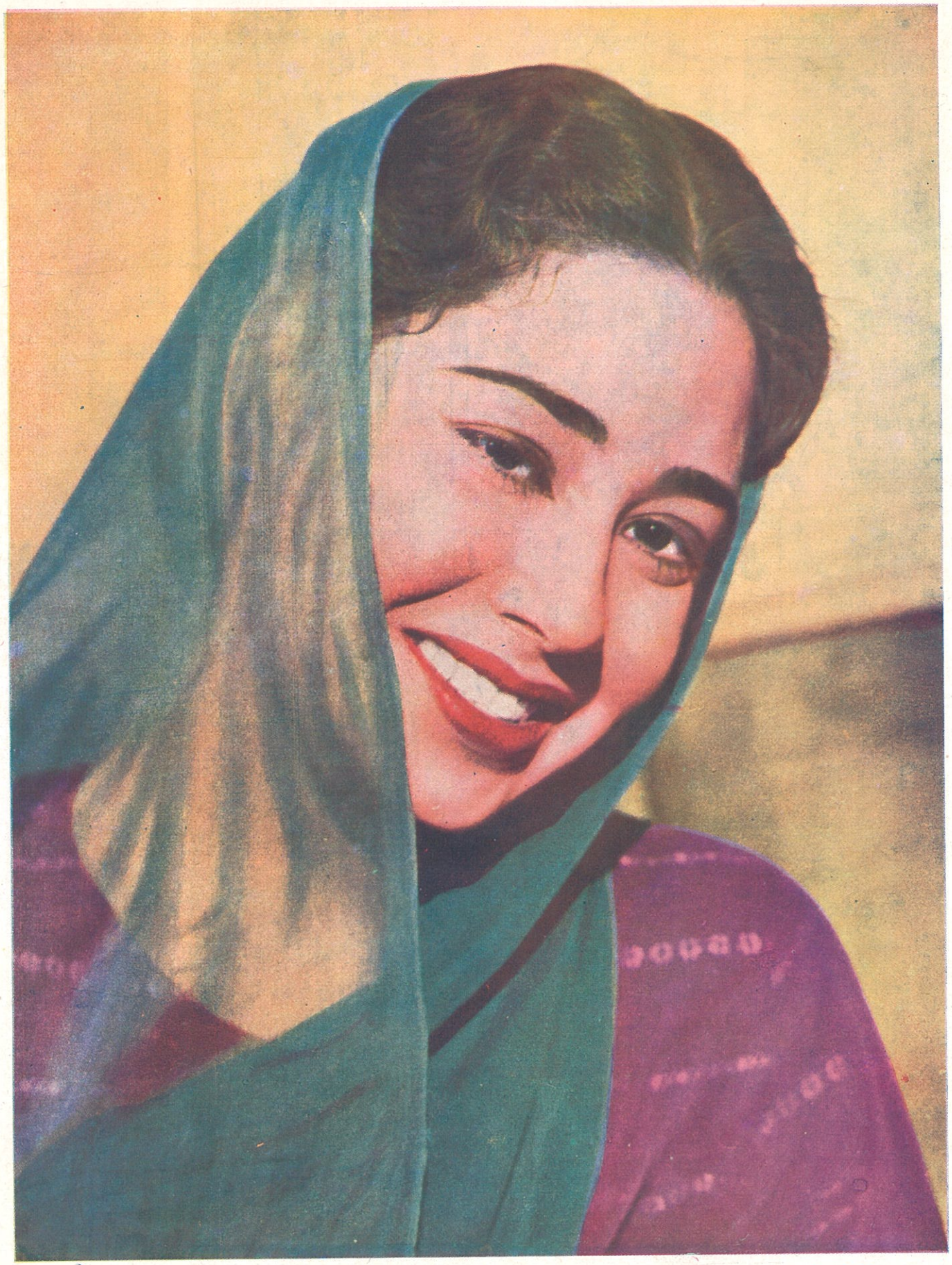
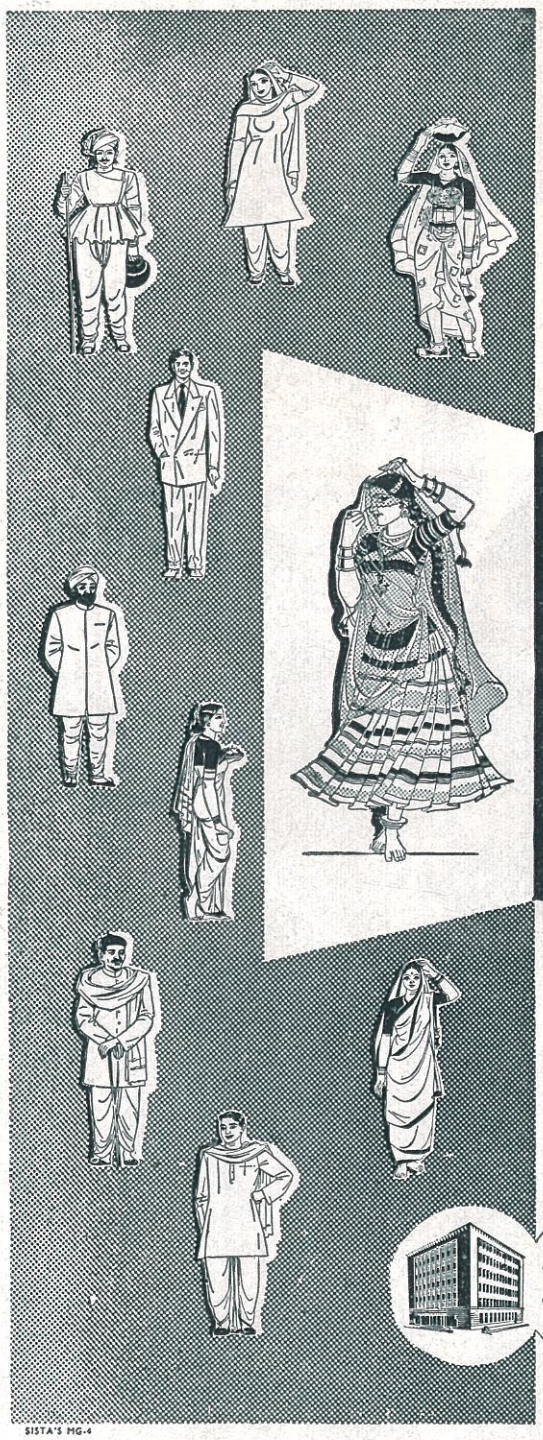


CHAND USMANI—

A cultured face is very rare on the Indian screen. Here is one with youth and beauty in addition. This fine artiste uses her face as a mirror to reflect even the finest shades of her inner emotions and has, therefore, never yet given a bad performance. Chand Usmani gives another sparkling performance in "Naya Paisa", an exciting social theme produced and directed by Aspi.



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This section is the monopoly of "JUDAS" and he writes what he likes and about things which he likes. The views expressed here are not necessarily ours, but they carry weight because they are written by a man who knows his job.

GRAM PANCHAYATS OF TAX DANIELS

In our previous article, "Sins of Nehru's Angels", we stated that Editor Patel's case for income taxation for the accounting period ending March 30, 1951, was first decided by the Income Tax Officer on 23rd March 1956 i.e. 5 years after the assessee had closed his annual enterprise of earning a livelihood.

As the said assessment order was unjust and arbitrary, Editor Patel went into appeal, which appeal had to be presented within 30 days of the date of the receipt of the assessment order under Section 30 of the Income Tax Act. This appeal was decided by the Appellate Assistant Commissoner on 31st January 1957. That brings the case time-table to 5 years and 9 months from March 30, 1951.

As the result of the appeal was far from satisfactory, Editor Patel filed an appeal before the Appellate Tribunal within 60 days as provided by Section 33. The Appellate Tribunal disposed of the appeal on 11th September 1957 i.e. 6 years and 6 months after March 30, 1951, the end of the relevant accounting period.

Not satisfied with the decision of the Appellate Tribunal, Editor Patel has made an application to the Appellate Tribunal, within 60 days from the date of the receipt of the order of the Appellate Tribunal as provided by Section 66, to refer the case to the High Court on points of law involved in the case. Under the same Section the Appellate Tribunal is permitted to consume 90 days after receipt of the application before it decides to give a preliminary hearing to the assessee. At the time of writing this article, Editor Patel's case is fixed for preliminary hearing of the Reference Application on 3rd January 1958 i.e. 6 years and 9 months after Editor Patel stopped earning for the relevant year. The further process of law, up to the Supreme Court, will probably take 3 years more.

We have given this time-table of a normal case to prove the delays of law. It thus takes almost six years for an assessee to reach only the Appellate Tribunal stage.

During these six years what cruelties and tortures are not visited upon him? Only the greatest mercy of God can save an assessee from the deliberate design of the Income Tax Department to ruin him by seizing all his assets, trampling upon his business and by completely crippling him.

It is, therefore, natural that after all the throttling during six years he arrives breathless at the doors of the Appellate Tribunal with a most fervent prayer in his heart for justice and relief. In the members of the Appellate Tribunal he sees gods who would destroy the demons of the Tax Department to uphold justice and fairplay. To him the hard journey to the Appellate Tribunal is like the ancient ceremony of "yagna" performed to get justice and mercy from the gods. His appeal to the Appellate Tribunal is thus a prayer to be relieved from distress and injustice.

This article on our Appellate Tribunals has become urgent and necessary because in its greed for quick money the Congress Government of our so-called "Welfare" State is contemplating the supersession of the powers of the Supreme Court and the High Courts under Articles 32 and 226 of the Constitution to issue appropriate writs in the nature of habeas corpus, mandamus, certiorari etc., for the enforcement of a citizen's fundamental rights, by appointing administrative tribunals for the disposal of writ petitions. This proposed administrative set-up would be the greatest travesty of justice as it would amount to a vain appeal from one blind bureaucrat to another. These administrative tribunals would be merely spineless creatures of political power and setting them up would be the most blatant and shameless negation of law and justice, making our Constitution not worth the paper it is printed on.

Before this tragedy of freedom takes place it has become necessary, in public interest and to uphold the fundamental rights so dear to every free citizen, to point out to our rulers how such administrative tribunals, even as they exist today with comparatively less power than what is proposed to be given to them, function to the detriment of a citizen's rights and expectations of justice and fairplay.

We take the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, of which we recently had a very eloquent experience, to illustrate our present thesis.

The Appellate Tribunal of Income Tax is the final stage of appeal in the administrative set-up of the Government. It is the final fact-finding body. To clothe it with a veneer of justice, it is placed under the Ministry of Law so that its members can hold their holy books in hand and swear that they have nothing to do with the Ministry of Finance. Actually, in Bombay, the members of the Appellate Tribunal and the representatives of

They always like to have one more look at the man in the hope that they will discover something new in him. But men are so prosaic and look so colourless all their life that women soon stop looking at them—accepting them as inevitable adjuncts. Mala Sinha gets almost cockeyed looking that way in Producer Arora's next.

BOMBAY CALLING by JUDAS

Women never use words for inviting. They take silent inviting poses and expect the men to pick up the clue. Madhubala is patiently waiting for fast developments in "Kal Hamara Hai", a romantic tale.

the Tax Department are housed together and work in close collaboration all the time, exciting almost a suspicion of collusion. It would be more tactful to separate them to make the veneer of justice a little more convincing.

The Appellate Tribunal is not a court in a strictly judicial sense (Seshadri vs I.T.O., 1954, 25 I.T.R. 400) and those who grace the chairs are called 'members' and not 'judges' and yet under Section 37 of the Income Tax Act, the members of the Tribunal act in a quasi-judicial capacity and are expected to conform to the more elementary rules of judicial procedure. (D. D. Shroff vs. C.I.T. 1943. I.T.R. 172, 177). That they rarely do so is another matter.

It should thus be realized that as the Appellate Tribunal is not strictly a Court of Law, it is not intended nor designed to follow a judicial procedure and arrive at a judicial verdict. An assessee, therefore, need not necessarily expect justice. If, however, he gets it, he can attribute it to an accidental smile of fortune.

But in Bombay the man, who designed the original set-up for the Appellate Tribunal, evidently had an acute sense of drama. He put up a board right before the landing of the lift reading: "Ministry of Law—Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal.' Then he engaged rooms and called them "Court Rooms", even though Appellate Tribunals are not Courts under the law. Then he erected a raised dais for the Tribunal members, placing two royal chairs and tables fenced by the usual court-room railing. Two feet below and eight feet away he placed a crescent-shaped table with several chairs around for the contending parties to occupy. Round this crescent-shaped table stand the counsels for their pleadings. Behind them sit the assessees silently praying—too scared even to breathe.

In Bombay, the Appellate Tribunal is so conveniently housed that its members can constantly look at the Aayakar Bhuvan—the Income Tax headquarters across the road—through the windows and charge themselves with new inspiration every ten minutes. The Aayakar Bhuvan acts as a good reminder of the ultimate power of the Finance Ministry from where the pay-packets for the staff of the Law Ministry come. The Aayakar Bhuvan seems to tell the members of the Tribunal to earn their way all the time and to hell with justice to the assessee. It is, indeed, a significant setting and even motion picture producers, with their wild imagination, could not have improved upon it.

The powers of the Appellate Tribunal are expressed in the widest possible terms giving each member of the Tribunal sufficient scope to exercise his imagination, whim, prejudice or favouritism. In an appeal, after, of course, hearing both the parties, the Tribunal can "pass such orders thereon as it thinks fit". It can interfere with the basis and manner of computation adopted by the Income Tax Officer and it can adopt its own fancy basis and reduce an assessment or enhance it if there is a cross-appeal by the Department, accept evidence or refuse to do so, hear an argument or turn a deaf ear, make mistakes and refuse to rectify them and be deaf to the pleadings of law and create its own conundrums of law—in short do all, whatever it may be in a mood to do at the moment, without worrying about whom and how it hurts. But, of course, with the Aayakar Bhuvan always in view, it almost always hurts the assessee more.

Rule 11 of the Appellate Tribunal reads as follows: "When a fact, which cannot be borne out by, or is contrary to, the record, is alleged, it shall be stated clearly and concisely and supported by a duly sworn affidavit".

This rule apparently gives an opportunity to the assessee to support the facts in his case by additional evidence in the form of an affidavit.

But then there is Rule 29 which reads as follows: "The parties to the appeal shall not be entitled to produce additional evidence either oral or documentary before the Tribunal, but if the Tribunal requires any document to be produced or any witness to be examined or any affidavit to be filed to enable it to pass orders or for any other substantial cause, or if the Income Tax Officer has decided the case **without giving a sufficient opportunity to the assessee** to adduce evidence either on points specified by him or not specified by him, the Tribunal **may allow** such document to be produced or witness to be examined or affidavit to be filed or **may allow** such evidence to be adduced".

This rule again gives the impression of a fair and wholesome provision in law to protect the interests of the assessee, seeing that in 99.9% cases, the I.T.O. does not give sufficient opportunity to the assessee to adduce evidence, the I.T.O.'s design of assessment being always his personal secret, and in 80% of the cases wild and arbitrary assessments are made without any rhyme or reason. But then with the Aayakar Bhuvan constantly staring through the window, the members of the Appellate Tribunal in 99% of the cases exercise their privilege under the "may-allow" provision of the law and disallow any new evidence even if it is vitally necessary to arrive at a just decision in the case.

In a recent case, an assessee moved heaven and earth to submit evidence of the true ownership of a property belonging to another as the property was wrongly taxed and attached in his case. To decide the case in a just manner, it was absolutely necessary to determine the true ownership of the property. The assessee's counsel flourished several documents, affidavits and witnesses stating all the while, in no uncertain terms, that the I.T.O. had never even revealed his intention of determining the owership of the property, leave alone taxing or slandering its title during the proceedings before him. The counsel said that had the I.T.O. revealed his intention of doing so, the assessee would have not only himself led substantial evidence to establish the true ownership of the property but also persuaded the true owners to submit their evidence in support of their ownership. The members of the Appellate Tribunal gave a deaf ear to all the arguments, blinked at the bundle of documents and affidavits, refused to accept the evidence exercising their **"may-allow"** privilege under Rule 29 and in the result created perhaps the most monstrous conundrum of law by which the ownership of a part of the property was held in the hands of the assessee for one relevant year and the rest of it left hanging in air for subsequent years. Ten leading lawyers in Bombay are now trying to solve this conundrum of law and neither the assessee nor

the true owners of the property know to whom the property belongs today.

The benefit which Rule 11 confers on the assessee is thus unceremoniously taken away by the **"may-allow"** whim embodied in Rule 29. Human nature being evil in its pseudo-intellectual and power-crazy phase, Rule 29 is almost always misused by the members of the Appellate Tribunal and justice denied to the assessee.

Had justice been the main theme and spirit of the institution known as the Appellate Tribunal, the members would have welcomed all evidence that could be produced, even at the last stage, in their anxiety to be just. **For, when a decision is just to one party, it is automatically just to the other—justice not being a medal with two faces.** Besides, considering the fact that the other party to income-tax disputes is always an all-powerful Government, propelled by the whims and mechanics of a corrupt bureaucracy, it is most essential that the administrators of justice should even go out of their way to stretch a helping hand to the helpless assessee in a noble attempt to emphasize the impartiality of justice. We must regretfully state that many members of the Appellate Tribunal do not even know the definition of justice, leave alone nursing a conscience to deliver it.

Another strange provision by which members of the Tribunal sit in judgment over their own blunders is found in Rule No. 39 which reads as follows: "The Bench which heard the appeal giving rise to the application (for reference) shall hear it unless the President directs otherwise".

This "application" refers to the one under Section 66 of the Income Tax Act. Under this Section either the assessee or the Commissioner can appeal against the decision of the Appellate Tribunal and ask for a reference to the High Court on points of law arising out of such decision. The very fact that a party feels that a question of law arises out of an order by the Appellate Tribunal emphasises the fallibility of the judgment of the members of the Tribunal. In normal judicial proceedings, such disputed questions are heard by superior courts or by other judges. But in income-tax matters, the guys return again to deliver judgment on their own wisdom or folly in drafting the order. And as human nature is constituted—blind and self-righteous—in 80% of the cases, the members of the Tribunal refuse to refer the case to the High Court.

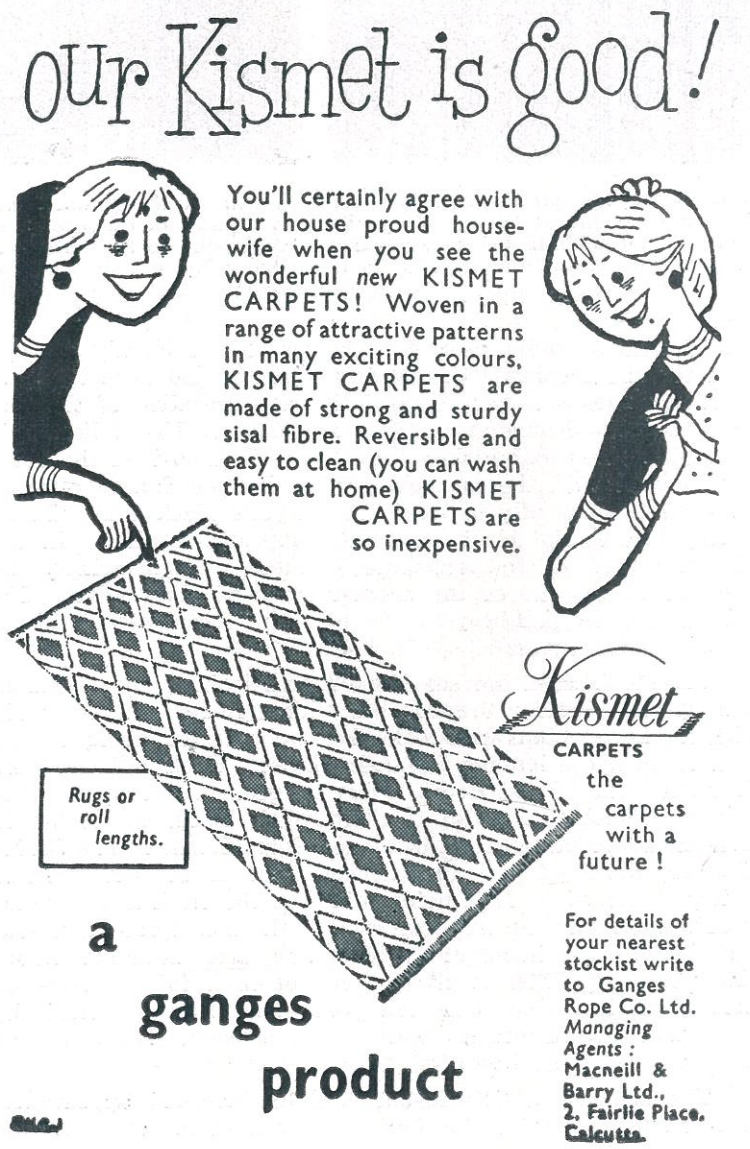
The refusal, of course, still leaves a remedy open to the assessee to appeal to the High Court directly under Section 66(2) to compel the Appellate Tribunal to state a case. But look at the impractical stupidity of calling upon the members of the Tribunal to admit that they had made a mistake and the waste of time and money involved in the procedure!

Let us now shift the emphasis to the actual working of the Appellate Tribunal for Income Tax. Very recently we had the doubtful privilege of watching a Bench of the Tribunal in action at the instance of an assessee.

A Bench of the Tribunal always consists of two members—one of whom is called an Accounts Member and is supposed to know everything about accounts, and the other is called a Law Member and is expected to know everything about the legal aspects of a case. This is certainly a wise way of deciding cases as two heads, differently trained, can always be better than one head indifferently trained. But how does this combination work out in actual practice?

The case we watched was fixed at 11 A.M. At that time only one member of the Bench (the senior one, we were told) had arrived. The other one was expected any minute. The various assessees and their counsels with cartloads of account books and law books were anxiously waiting in the corridor for the Tribunal members to walk into the "Court Room". While waiting for the demi-gods, we picked up the following phrases from the lobby talk. "Five heavy cases on the board today and all called at 11 O'clock" (11 A.M. seems to be the fatal hour for all) "Oh don't worry, if he is in a bad mood he will give ten minutes to a case and finish them all before lunch". (Some of the matters, we were told, involved assessment of several lakhs of rupees). "He cannot dispose of my case in ten minutes. He'll have to hear me fully". "Since **he** does all the speaking, you'll have to hear **him.** Be correct, my friend". "But this is unfair! How can he dispose of a case involving several lakhs of rupees in ten minutes?" "This a Moghul court and not a British one". "But my client has gone through five years of hell to reach the Tribunal and you say he won't even let me speak". "You can speak but every time you open your mouth you will hear **his** words—perhaps a lecture on what your case should have been". "Am I an advocate or a barber?" "You will feel like a barber when you come out". "But isn't the Tribunal under the Law Ministry?" "But the ties of neighbourhood are stronger than the ties of the statutes". "I am told he shouts loudly?" "Shouts? You can also see his ears getting red". "That means there is no justice here". "If you have come for justice, go back. Don't waste your and your client's time". "But this crushing taxation?" "Well, if he comes smiling you'll get something off without any rhyme or reason. The usual cut is about 20%. Rest is revenue."

Then someone points out at a man coming out of the lift. He is the missing member of the Bench arriving at 11.20 A.M.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What does she care? She has bursting youth which by itself can fight a regiment of young men. When a woman challenges, men retreat. Madhubala brings some rare excitement to the screen in "Do Ustad", a thrilling tale of love produced by Sheikh Mukhtar and directed by Harish.

armed with a tennis racquet. The guy has evidently a sport date for the evening. The air is now tense and expectant. A peon now rushes to the room of the representative of the Tax Department and announces "Saab has come". That fellow puts on a black coat and rushes out. Since the board on the room is "Court Room", the counsels and the Income Tax representatives have apparently to wear the lawyer's black coat. In no other place is the black coat more appropriate than in the "Court Room" of the Appellate Tribunal, for invariably the assessee comes out of the room more dead than alive. The priests and the pall-bearers do make the occasion look like a funeral of the assessee.

At 11.25 A.M. we see two officious-looking men coming through the corridor towards the "Court Room". They walk with measured steps and look like two batsmen going to the field to open the innings for their eleven. Hush! Silence! As they enter the "Court Room" everyone gets up in respect. The Tribunal members now sit in their royal chairs, not caring to look at the people assembled in the "Court Room". The Senior Member snaps out with impatience at the court clerk "Where is today's board?" It is before him but the clerk has to point it out. He makes an attempt to read the board and then suddenly bursts out in anger at the old counsel standing before him, "Once my order is given, I cannot enter into correspondence about it. You must tell your client that the trash he wrote was thrown into my waste-paper basket". He bangs the table with obvious irritation.

The counsel—a 75-year-old man of reverend appearance, patient and cultured to his finger-tips, one of the topmost lawyers of India, a man who was knighted by the British for his great legal talent—is stunned. He doesn't know what it is all about. He is puzzled and looks to the Solicitor, instructing him, for an explanation. It seems the remark of the Senior Member of the Tribunal concerned another case of the firm in which the assessee worked and was decided previously with altogether another counsel pleading in that case. In that case, it seems, the assessee, in his capacity as the Managing Director, had written a very polite and humble letter pointing out to the Appellate Tribunal some error in calculation apparent on the face of the record and had humbly sought a rectification. The counsel in the present case did not know anything about it as he had nothing to do with the other case. But for the Senior Member of the Appellate Tribunal, the man behind both the cases being common, the difference between the firm's case and the man's personal case did not seem to matter. Nor did the Senior Member care to notice that the counsel in the present case was another man altogether. Self-righteous anger seemed to have made him blind. After getting a quick explanation from the Solicitor, the reverend counsel gently apologized for his client's mistake and gave an assurance that it won't happen again.

But the last word had to come from the Senior Member. All self-righteous people have the last word. He snapped out, "That's all right. He now knows where his letters go. To my waste-paper basket". During the day, we heard of this waste-paper basket at least twenty times. It seemed as if the man had a passion for it.

The counsel for the assessee opened the case in gentle and soothing words but before he had spoken for two minutes, the Senior Member cut in, "Now what's your case? Tell me in short". "That's what I am trying to do, Your Honour, as I don't want to waste Your Honour's time unnecessarily", was the gentle reply. He resumed the summary of the case. Within a minute, the Senior Member again cut in, "I am not interested in all those things. Just come to the main point". "Your Honour, the background of the case is important". "We'll think of the background afterwards, come to the point. "Yes, Your Honour! The assessee had made a voluntary disclosure". "Ah, he is one of those disclosurewallas", snapped the Senior Member, "I don't think much about these fellows. They come and say I have been utterly dishonest so far, now forgive me". "But, Your Honour, the voluntary disclosure was a Government-sponsored scheme". "I don't care what the Government thinks about disclosures. Proceed". The counsel took up where he had left. Two minutes later another interruption and a long lecture from the Senior Member. "Proceed!" The counsel resumed. After another two minutes another interruption and another lecture for five minutes. "Proceed!" "Yes, Your Honour!" "You are going away from your point". "I have not come to it yet, Your Honour". "Then what are you waiting for?" "A chance to explain it, Your Honour". "All right, proceed!" Two minutes of talk by the counsel and again the inevitable interruption: "What's your case? Come to the point". "Yes, Your Honour, the property involved in this case". "Never mind the property, we'll come to it later. Come to the point". "Yes, Your Honour, the property involved in this case—". "The property is an important point in this case, Your Honour. Everything revolves round it". "We'll see what revolves round what. That is my job. Come to the point". "Yes, Your Honour!" The ding-dong went on for 2½ hours till lunch time. For every minute that the counsel spoke there was interruption lasting for five to ten minutes. Over 30,000 words were heard in the "Court Room" during those 2½ hours. Out of these the counsel for the assessee could hardly put in 4,000 words edgeways, 26,000 words poured out from the Senior Member of the Bench. The progress of the case, after a hearing of 2½ hours, was nil. The case was adjourned till the next day as the Senior Member's colleague was gracing another Bench in the afternoon sessions. The assessee's counsel came out

beaten and breathless. For fifty years he had pleaded before some of the greatest judges of the world but he had never been so badly interrupted. When the assessee asked him, "What's going to happen tomorrow, Sir?" The old warrior replied, "Don't worry, he'll be all right tomorrow. He has to finish the case some day". The assessee was assessing the legal costs of the hearings at the rate at which his case was proceeding. The taxi-meter was running.

The case went on for two more full days with interruptions galore. Over 2,00,000 words were heard in the "Court Room", the counsel for the assessee getting a 10% share of them, 20% going to the representative of the Income Tax Department and 70% monopolized by the Senior Member of the Tribunal who was, we were informed, the Accounts Member of the Bench.

The Law Member did not utter a single word in three days. At times he closed his eyes as if in yogic meditation, twitching his fingers sometimes. (Or was he sleeping? Some neurotics even twitch their fingers in deep sleep). Anyway, we never heard the refined cadence of his voice during three wordy days of the hearings.

The scrutiny of the evidence was cursory. The mind of the Senior Member was on his lips all the time. Snap impressions were taken in moments of impulse and these were adhered to as if they were weighty decisions of judicial deliberation. "All right, I'll allow you those fifty thousand rupees. But what about these cash credits? I am very suspicious about cash transactions. He is a disclosurewalla". Thus previous suspicions and inhibitions held the floor and coloured the decisions. Present evidence had no judicial value at all.

The counsel for the assessee never opened the numerous law books he had brought to quote previous cases seeing that the Law Member never opened his eyes. The Law Member's meditation was perfect seeing that by his side sat an incorrigible chatter-box waxing eloquent on every thing under the sun and airing his unwanted prejudices and inhibitions. The Law Member seemed to be a serious rival to the great Swami Vivekananda. His self-restraint was almost divine.

The case ended with the Senior Member saying, "All right, you will soon know **my** judgment". It was **my** judgment with two Members on the Bench.

This is the type of procedure followed in the Appellate Tribunal. And we were told that this was easily the best Bench one could have. What must be the worst then? The result of such personnel and procedure can easily be found in the case law which is increasing in volume every day with the High Courts and the Supreme Court revising the snap decisions of the Appellate Tribunals, often wholesale. It is evident that appointments to these Tribunals are made on grounds other than right merit. All this multiplies litigation and causes great delays—delays that ruin the assessees and embarrasses the revenue.

We don't feel that the Appellate Tribunals as they are manned today are either conscientious or competent bodies to administer the Income Tax law in a spirit of justice and fair-play. There might be some exceptions, but by and large the story is the same all over India. These Appellate Tribunals are conducted like Gram Panchayats with Moghul methods of administering justice.

That reminds us of an incident in a village near Gwalior. The Gram Panchayat had assembled to decide the ownership of a cow claimed by two farmers. After three hours of shouting on all sides, the judgment of the village Daniels was that one farmer should keep and maintain the cow and the other one should take the milk. The decisions of the Appellate Tribunals sometimes beat this judgment of the village Daniels.

Under such circumstances our "Welfare" State should think a million times before it decides to forfeit the fundamental rights of a free citizen and deliver him to the tender mercies of such Tribunals.

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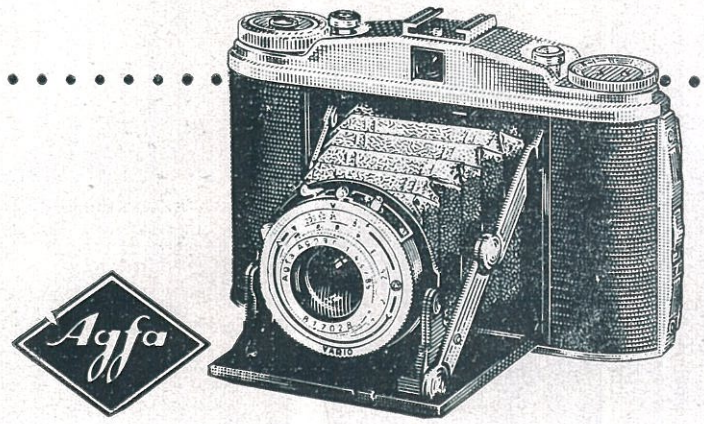

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of a human being that no one wants to die as long as it is possible to cling to the breath of life. Hunger, suffering and vicissitudes do not kill a man before his time. They all need time—time in which the man fights back with all his strength and resources and succumbs only when he cannot fight any more. We have often seen a dying man, given up by the doctors as a flicker of a few hours, living for months blowing off the fast-heaping ash with his faint breath and keeping the coal glowing even when no fuel is apparently left for burning. Seeing the great fight which a man puts up for his life under the most staggering vicissitudes imaginable, life seems to be a divine plan of existence till the final moment after which it cannot exist anymore. In this plan there does not seem to be a place for suicide—the sudden blowing off the flame of life by the man himself. A suicide must certainly be a surprise even to God, for God, who creates life through ceaseless conflict, would certainly not countenance the surrender of life without a great struggle.

And yet every day we hear of so many suicides by young men and women all over the country. The law describes these tragedies as acts of temporary insanity. If one could make the dead speak for a minute they would probably describe their act of self-destruction as an inevitable result of a moment of supreme sanity, while flinging at us a question: "Tell us one good reason why we should continue to live in this country?"

That is a most difficult question to answer in the "Welfare" State established by our Congressmen. In fact, there is no answer to that question. On the other hand, one can give a hundred reasons why one should cease to live in this country even a minute longer. And since we have no answer to this question of the dead, must we not accept their suicides as wise decisions taken in search of a better life? Seeing that bodies are ephemeral but life is eternal, those who left their empty garments behind probably hope to wear better ones and go to a better place where life will have a better purpose. But is there a better place on our big and wide earth now made small and narrow by the hatred of man? Whatever may be the search of those lost souls, it must be admitted that their suicide was the final expression of their extreme frustration in life when they felt all alone in a crowded world and decided to seek company elsewhere.

Hunger deaths in this land of chronic hunger are natural departures. Neither neighbours nor newspapers find any interest in them. But in suicides, there is a news value. A suicide is a one-player act with a tragic ending. And tragedy is news—sympathetic to the inherent evil in man. Suicides therefore, enjoy almost correct statistics. The dramatic element in them guarantees entertainment to the people and newspapers never fail to broadcast the grim drama of this one-person act. We can, therefore, rely on the statistics published in the papers.

According to these statistics, Chief Minister Y. B. Chavan revealed in the Bombay Legislative Assembly that the number of women committing suicide in the Bombay State has seen steadily rising during the past five years. The statistical picture of departures heavenwards looks as under:

In 1952,	975	women committed suicide
In 1953,	1068	" " "
In 1954,	1227	" " "
In 1955,	1291	" " "
In 1956,	1352	" " "
In 1957,	754	women did so in 7 months

That is a grand total of 6667 suicides in 5 years and 7 months. And that figure does not include the contribution by men.

The score-board of the Madras State, according to Home Minister M. Bhaktavatsalam reads as follows:

In 1954	3415	suicides, both male & female
In 1955	3062	" " " "
In 1956	2515	" " " "

That is a total of 8992 suicides in three years.

Kamlapathi Tripathi, the Home Minister of Uttar Pradesh, confessed the other day that 4000 persons had committed suicide in Uttar Pradesh during the last two years and four months.

This story of suicide is equally tragic in other States. In Bengal where thousands end their lives every month, the Bengali Congressmen ascribe the deaths to "excessive allergy to rice resulting in mental aberration".

Why is the number of suicides constantly going up in a country living in freedom from foreign slavery and ruled by its own people? And why are so many thousands of men and women, all over the country, choosing this drastic method of protest knowing that those who die never return to this world?

The people who died in this manner were not new to hunger. In India every mother gives birth to twins—the child and his hunger. A baby is ushered into this country wrapped in the chilly embrace of hunger. Hunger is not a stranger. As the child grows, his resistance to hunger grows and so does his resistance to the other dire wants of life. But he never dreams of ending his life because he badly misses food, clothes, home and other dire necessities of life. The fact that millions in this country still continue to live chewing roots and barks proves that the want of dire necessities of life does not drive them to suicide. Chronic hunger has little sting left in it to make a man desperate enough to take his own life.

There must be some other reason. And since a suicide is an act of "temporary insanity" according to our law-makers, the reason must naturally be found in the mind of the person who commits suicide.

For instance, take a man who has been told for years, before 15th August 1947, that freedom from the British boot would open the gates of paradise for him if only he wore on his head a white cap and bent it non-violently before the heavy stick of the ruler. Well, he does all that he is told to do with a hope to be a favoured citizen of paradise, just as the assassins of Hassan bin Sabah were once upon a time promised a paradise of sparkling wine and beautiful women if they drove their knives into the unsuspecting stomachs of Hassan's political enemies.

Having at last won freedom for his country, the non-violent citizen of India naturally expects the legend of the paradise to come true as soon as possible. The word, "Freedom" was the key, as he was constantly told, to the gates of paradise. Having got the key, he is now searching for the paradise.

Where is the paradise? It is still to be built. The citizen has only the key to a paradise that is not yet built. He is then told that the foundations of the paradise are to be dug with the key. "Put your arms to the key and begin digging". He digs for years over a design called the Five-Year Plan, and prays that from the salt of the sweat he drops into the soil would rise a harvest that would bring smile and sunshine into his home, at least before the clay of his mortal coil joins the dust of his free soil.

Years pass and the poor man is still at his labour and prayer. The first Five-Year Plan is finished but the harvest is still not in sight. Unemployment increases, cloth becomes dearer and shelter disappears. Even the grain of rice which was once found under the boot of the British is not now seen. Someone tells him that the salt of his sweat was turned into pieces of silver and they went into the pockets of corrupt officials and Congress profiteers.

In frantic haste he runs to Nehru, the oracle of the nation, with a silent question on his face furrowed by hunger and want. He gets a sermon on hard work and good behaviour and comes home with a fresh dream of his paradise, framed in beautiful, inspiring words. In hunger and want, man sees a god in his ruler. Here was a smiling god who asks blood with the sweat and promises again the long-promised paradise.

Poor citizen, how can he refuse the sweet demands of a smiling god? He swallows his old hunger with a hard gulp, offers his little children as new meat to poverty and pestilence and once again returns to the trench with a heart of steel to build the paradise of his dream.

Then someone shows him a newspaper from which he learns that white-capped Congressmen have swallowed crores of rupees in the first Five-Year Plan, that they want power again to perpetuate fraud and corruption, that the Jeep scandal took away lakhs of rupees belonging to the people, that Congress ministers made lakhs of rupees in the sugar, tractor and cotton scandals, that a crore and a half rupees were gambled away by the Life Insurance Corporation of India and that Nehru, his smiling god, lent his divine protection to all these scoundrels.

The citizen's hands get paralysed. He looks towards heaven and asks: "Was it for this that I sweated all these years?" There is no answer. Heaven never has an answer for the misdeeds of man. It has only tears which sometimes come down in the form of floods to take the praying devotees to another world. The citizen goes home only to see the anguish of his hungry family. They have been hungry for years. They have been naked for years. They have been sick for years. And all they had were words for food, words for clothing and words for medicine. Words, words, words! And more words, and more words and more words! But not a grain of rice or a piece of cloth or a roof of shelter.

There is murder in his eyes. He wants to murder all the white-capped Congressmen who robbed him of his paradise.

But murder needs strength and manhood. The citizen hasn't got both. The sweat that dropped from his toiling mind and body through years took away the salt of strength from both. He is a carcass of helpless prayer vainly looking towards his rulers for a handful of rice, even as alms of power. But the granaries of the nation are empty. Blood-stained silver has taken the place of rice. The State wants money and more money to grow more fraud and corruption. Those who collect this money now live in princely houses. They move about in streamlined motor cars. Their wives wear foam-rubber to accentuate the arrogance of their breasts. Their children go to school in cars with slabs of chocolate in their mouths. Songs! Dances! Pictures! It is a new picnic in paradise! But the poor citizen is still hugging a dream of words painted by his smiling god.

In a sane moment he realizes that his white-capped rulers did build a paradise but for their own sycophants—not for him, not for the people of his country. He now hears the piteous wail of his hungry child asking for food. He goes to the well saying that he is going to bring some water. But he hugs the water, never to return.

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Next morning the white-capped coroner gives his verdict: "Suicide owing to an unsound mind". That verdict is an insult to the man who quietly surrendered God's best gift without committing the crime of murder. This tragic harvest of frustration will increase every year, as long as Nehru, the smiling god of India, continues to protect corrupt officials and ministers with the divinity which the love of our people has bestowed upon him.

RESCUE GANDHIJI FROM HELL

After an official tour of Kerala, Shriman Narayan, General Secretary of the All-India Congress Committee, went to Calcutta and said, on December 19, 1957, that in Kerala, "The Communists were openly misusing the State machinery for furthering their party ends."

We believe Shriman Narayan for two reasons: firstly, because, Shriman being a Gandhian Congressman naturally swears by "Satyameva Jayate"—the supreme motto of our Gandhian "Welfare" State—and would not stoop to tell us lies and secondly, because, we know the Communists and their unscrupulous character in politics as exhibited all over the world. In fact, we are prepared to believe anything against the Communists and hang them even for the deliberate murder of the dog. Laika, the latest Christian martyr at the altar of lethal science. We are so full of anger against the Communists that if Nikita Khrushchev kills a mosquito sitting on his nose and sucking his Russian blood, we are prepared to hang Khrushchev for the murder of the dynamic mosquito.

The news, therefore, that the Communists in Kerala are openly misusing the State machinery for furthering their party ends naturally shocks us and along with Shriman Narayan, we unreservedly condemn such an ugly practice. We frankly feel that our pure, bubbling fountain of democracy should not be polluted by such party poly-tricks. And we are sure that every lover of democracy will feel the same way.

The point, however, is whether Shri Shriman Narayan, the General Secretary of the All-India Congress Committee, is the right man to complain about the dirty tactics of the Communists in Kerala?

The Holy Bible tells us that when the scribes and the Pharisees brought before Christ, on the Mount Olivet, a woman accused of adultery and demanded that she be stoned to death according to the law of Moses, Christ said, "He that is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone." And one by one the accusers left till the woman was left alone standing before Jesus.

Shri Shriman Narayan, the Gandhian disciple, doesn't probably know this Christian story or knowing it, he probably feels that its moral does not apply to politics.

Let us, therefore, remind him what the Gandhian Congress has been doing in the country under his General Secretaryship.

During the last elections, the Gandhian Congress not only coerced and blackmailed many rich industrialists individually to give big donations to the Congress election funds but it aiso compelled some public limited companies to alter their constitutions to enable them to make substantial contributions to the Congress funds.

We won't unnecessarily hurt a good Gandhian Congressman like Shriman, by giving here a formidable list of the crores of rupees collected by Congressmen through coercive and political blackmail, but to bring home the enormity of this antisocial behaviour, we shall only quote what Justice P. B. Mukharji of the Calcutta High Court thought when the Indian Iron and Steel Company Ltd., applied for the court's sanction to make contributions to the funds of political parties.

Said the learned judge: "To induce the Government of the day by contributing money to the political funds of political parties was to adopt the most sinister principle with grave dangers to commercial as well as public standards of administration.....Persuasion by contribution of money lowered the standard of administration even in a welfare State of democracy. To convert conviction and conscience by money was to pervert both democracy and administration."

The directors of the Indian Iron and Steel Company Ltd., were seeking the permission of the court to give money to the Congress of Shriman Narayan, and not to the Communists of Kerala or India, when Justice Mukharji made these serious observations. Under the existing laws, the sanction could not be refused by the court but Justice Mukharji did not make a secret of what he personally thought about the dirty deal. Crores of rupees thus went into the Congress treasury during the elections, the Tatas alone paying as much as Rs. 20 lakhs to the Congress.

Can this coercion and blackmail through political power be described as "openly misusing the State machinery for furthering party ends"—the words of Shri Shriman Narayan used for describing the dirty tactics of Communists in Kerala?

And what did the Congress not do to win the elections? While it described drinking as a new crime of moral turpitude and clamped Prohibition on the people, Congressmen in various provinces let loose a Ganga of liquor to bathe the voters before they went to the Congress ballot boxes. While the Congress declared a socialist pattern of society as its ultimate goal, Congressmen seduced rich Princes to lend their wealth and women to perpetuate the political power of the Congress. While the Congress Government prohibited by law the use of cars and other temptations to the voters, Congress candidates hired thousands of jeeps and cars and offered money and minor favours to the people to persuade them to vote for the Congress.

In Madhya Bharat, the empire of cut-throat dacoits and corrupt Congressmen, several Congress candidates enlisted the active support of even professional dacoits like Rupa and Gubber Singh to threaten the people with loot and murder if they refused to vote for the Congress. In all the provinces, the State machinery was unscrupulously harnessed to the single aim of winning the elections. So shamelessly was this done that even Government stationery was openly used to send the party manifesto to the voters. Even in a bye-election, like that of Rafiq Zakaria recently, Yeshwantrao Chavan, the Chief Minister of Bombay, went from door to door to every voter's house to persuade the people to vote for the Congress. When the Chief Minister of a State goes canvassing in this manner, doesn't it amount to a misuse of power and dignity of the State for party ends? For Zakaria's election even Morarji Desai, a Cabinet Minister, travelled all the way to Bombay to deliver lectures with veiled threats to the voters, asking them to vote for the Congress. Does this not amount to misusing the symbols of power and administration for party ends?

We are neither surprised nor even shocked at such misuses or dirty tactics either by our Congressmen or by the Communists. In unscrupulous political tactics there is very little to choose between the Congressmen and the Communists. What hurts us is that Shri Shriman Narayan, the General Secretary of the All-India Congress Committee, should have a grievance against the Communists when the Communists only emulate the example of the Congress, the Gandhian political party of high ideals and low morals.

How can those who live in glass houses throw stones at others? A better way to criticize the Communists would be to set the Congress house in order. Congress sins and crimes are stopping Gandhiji from entering heaven though he has now been dead for ten years. Will Nehru, the heir of the Mahatma, hasten the long-delayed salvation of our saintly father of the nation?

YOU'LL HARDLY BELIEVE —

THAT Balu Keskar vehemently denied in the Lok Sabha that Government's advertisement policy was discriminatory. Said the bald Broadcast boy, "It is our accepted policy to give advertisements on the basis of circulation and standing of the paper." Balu's grandfather cannot deny 'Filmindia's' circulation and as regards status he has only to see the magazine on Nehru's table every month. Then why is "Filmindia" not getting Government advertisements? Is it because the Congress Government wants a good write-up for a corrupt administration? And why do advertisements of Indian Air Lines Corporation, Air India International, National Savings Certificates, Publicity Division, Railways, etc., go to magazines with a total printing order of 1000 copies for free circulation? Would Balu Keskar like us to print the names of these magazines with the necessary statistical data? Lying is an art but bald Balu tells bald lies.

THAT while his fearless son-in-law, Feroze Gandhi, exposed in Lok Sabha a crore-and-half worth of scandal concerning the Life Insurance Corporation of India, in Bhilai Nehru described the progress made as "inspiring". Said the smiling Prime Minister, "Visits to such projects gave confidence in the nation's progress". Now, we must wait till son-in-law Feroze Gandhi starts a probe of the Bhilai Project. At the moment good, old Feroze is busy with the scandal of Indian Air Lines.

THAT whatever happens to India's root-and-bark-eating millions, Nehru's place in history is secure now that Earl Mountbatten has given us an assurance to that effect. Unveiling a portrait of Nehru at the Indian High Commission, Lady Mountbatten's tall husband said, "We have great affection and admiration for the man and country whose destinies he has been guiding so grandly and brilliantly. Nehru's place in history as a very great man is assured." After this we may expect one of the Mountbattens to visit India for another big order of aircraft.

THAT to make sure of Nehru's place in history, the Government of Bombay invited him to unveil the statue of Shivaji at Pratapgarh and to make his journey comfortable spent Rs. 2,50,000 of tax-payers' money for constructing a special road to the Pratapgarh Fort. In that amount they could have employed a dozen Dhebars of the Congress to write and print a special history of Nehru with his footprint on every page.

THAT while talking of history the most forgotten man of India is the late Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Nehru, of course, has never heard of a man of that name but the "Hindustan Times" of Delhi dared to announce a special supplement on the occasion of Sardar's seventh anniversary and good, old Durga Das himself went round to all, whom he had once seen at the feet of the Sardar, to get some articles. Only our reverend President and V. Shankar, Sardar's Private Secretary, could muster up courage to write two beautiful articles in memory of the great patriot. Even Sadoba Patil seems to have forgotten his old master, now that Sadoba has joined Nehru's court. People do seem to lose their character in New Delhi.

THAT in the meantime, Govind Ballabh Pant, our trembling Home Minister, excavated another historical relic in India. Defending Morarji Desai's shooting performance during the lingual disturbances in Bombay, Pant said, "Shri Morarji is one

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"That's my back. Do you like it?" asks Nirupa Roy. Well, if she had shown it ten years ago, you would have rushed to answer. The question is ten years too late. Anyway, let us see why Nirupa has to expose herself so much to make "Karigar", an exciting picture.

of the foremost patriots and fighters of freedom. During the Samyukta Maharashtra agitation he bore the brunt. One should not run down a person of his stature." Why not put a Bharat Ratna round his neck and pass a new law to that effect? We won't accept Morarji's stature unless his inches are defined in a penal law.

THAT in Andhra, white-capped Congressmen are trying to cut off several feet from Morarji, "the person of stature" by pouring liquor again into the dry Prohibition bottle of the State. One A. C. Subba Reddy, the Vice President of the Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee, recently moved a "Scrap-Prohibition" resolution in Hyderabad and demanded that the Andhra State should give a decent burial to Prohibition. Now no Reddy has a chance to get a Congress ticket in the next elections. We always said that Morarji had a wonderful memory. It makes up for his missing intelligence.

THAT while Prohibition is on its way out, a civil judge of Arvi was recently sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 100 or in default to undergo 15 days' simple imprisonment for a Prohibition offence. That is punishing one good Omar Khayyam for emptying into his throat the cup that cheers. If the motor cars of Congress Ministers can drink millions of gallons of petrol every year, why can't a Congress civil judge drink a small glass of liquor? After all different machines do require different fuels.

THAT realizing that wood also exudes alcohol while burning, Congressmen in New Delhi have decided not to mount the ordinary pyres on their days of departure. The Congress Government has therefore acquired twenty acres of land to build an electric crematorium so that good Congressmen can leave behind 'ashes' without any smell of alcohol. As these 'ashes' are usually thrown into our various rivers, Congressmen are afraid that river waters will turn into liquor and turn even our "langoti" saints into "mosambi" sinners.

THAT as electric cremation needs even Congress corpses without clothes, Congress ministers are afraid of revealing scabies of corruption on their cold corpses and giving Kamaths and Feroze Gandhis of the country a chance to point a finger at them. Chief Minister Chavan of Bombay, therefore, invested Rs. 3,56,000 of tax-payers' money in new stream-lined motor cars, so that the Congress Ministers of Bombay, at least, may reveal smooth bottoms without the wear and tear from our bad roads.

THAT anything can be done with the idiotic tax-payers' money in our country. In New Delhi, Nehru pays the Swiss cook of Ashoka Hotel a salary of Rs. 1,845 per month with free board and lodging for the cook and his family, with a free passage for all to Switzerland. The problem is that Nehru cannot persuade people to go to the Ashoka Hotel to eat what the Swiss cook cooks. Anyway, he does cook the goose of our tax-payers.

THAT to prove that the tax-payers have nothing to do with their money once they pay it into the State Treasury, the Government of Madhya Pradesh spent Rs. 30,000 on a special plane called "Bonanza" (costing Rs. 43,179) up to March 1954. In six years this plane went up into the air 28 times. Out of these 28 flights, 10 were test flights and 18 joy rides. The Audit Report described this expenditure as "infructuous", completely missing the significance of the name, "Bonanza". We must get auditors with better education and sense of humour. How can our honest Congressmen run the government with such idiotic auditors?

THAT somehow our honest Congressmen, looking at the world with their godly Gandhian eye, always manage to get the wrong type of auditors. A group of these auditors recently compelled Lal Bahadur Shastri, that pint-sized Congressman who once jumped out of his Ministerial chair when a train jumped out of its rails killing hundreds, to admit that serious defects have been discovered in the construction of our two ships, "State of Andaman" and "Vidyut". That is another few crores gone waste and we cannot use those ships even as rafts to save ourselves after the wreck of our Congress governments. Now, if those idiotic auditors had not discovered this, the "State of Andaman" would have at least taken a thousand refugees from East Bengal to the bottom of the sea and eased our food problem. We think Congress governments should consult Birla before they appoint their new auditors. Birla always gets very competent auditors.

THAT an independent member of the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Mr. Arjun Singh — no relation of the dacoit, Man Singh—created unnecessary excitement in the Assembly by flourishing a photostat copy of a letter written by the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Shivpuri, to another police

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EXPERT LADIES TO TRAIN LADIES

official asking him to release an arrested dacoit because he was "our man and relation." Arjun Singh evidently did not realize that he was unnecessarily interrupting a nationalized Congress industry. Good Congressmen like Bhuta of Bhind must see that the wrong Singhs are not elected next time. It is worthwhile asking Gubbar Singh—the ear-nose specialist—to look after Arjun Singh.

THAT in their attempt to ruin the political career of Acharya Kripalani, the caustic critic of the Congress, the Congressmen of Delhi have been floating a thousand rumours about the old Sindhi patriot. To answer the latest rumour that Sucheta was thinking of leaving the old scholar, Acharya Kripalani had to issue the following communique about the situation on the domestic front: "I neither want to be a henpecked husband nor want to thrust my political views on my wife in this modern age. We are both living a harmonious family life." That harmony in the home seems to have lost Sucheta the post of the Minister of Health.

THAT Gandhism has made women so prominent in India these days that people seem to have become ashamed of their fathers. One Kailash Chand, an enthusiastic Congress voter, fought for his right to be recognized as the son of his mother —quite a proper thing to claim—and finally persuaded the Electoral Registration Officer to give a ruling as follows: "Anybody who wants to register himself as the son or daughter of his mother, may now do so." The entry in the electoral role now reads, "Kailash Chand Pista Devi Garg". Imagine an entry reading as "Baburao Jamnabai Patel"! Does it make a lion look soft and does it make a woman look like a lioness?

THAT people who believe in shedding blood over the purity of a language would do well to read the recent lecture of a Congress Corporator of Bombay. Shri Khwaja Ismail Hussein stood up to support a Congress resolution on housing and said, "Yeh city-ka housing problem solve karne-ke liye ek conference bula raha hai aur facts and figures table par rakhenge. Hum jarur majority party ke sath conference men cooperation deneko tayyar hai." That is after ten years of Hindi mania in India. We feel that Khwaja Saheb deserves to be made the Chairman of a new Language Commission. Even Madrasis won't object to his Hindi.

THAT though our Congressmen did not grow many crops in the fields, they did grow a large number of laws in their legislatures. The latest statistics reveal that between 1953 and 1956, the State Legislatures passed 2557 laws while Parliament passed more than 150 laws. That, of course, increases the variety of crimes and gives more colour to our country. Jai Hind!

THAT for the first time in the last so many years, film actor Raj Kapoor celebrated his birthday (December 14) in his own home with his wife, Krishna, and the family. Daboo gave him a perfume bottle to kill the other smell, Ritu gave him a toothbrush to lend fragrance to the kiss at home and Chintu gave a packet of blades so that Raj may not constantly look like a Devdas whose Paroo is in bed with another. Wife Krishna gave a grand birthday party to friends, forgetting those friends who prayed for her ultimate triumph and happiness. Well, when one marries a Kapoor, some hereditary qualities have to undergo a change. Our prayers, however, will always be for Krishna's supreme happiness as a devoted wife.

THAT film actor Bharat Bhushan is these days suffering from Omar Khayyam. The hallucination keeps him reciting the Rubaiyat without actually a "Thou" beside him. And Bharat's choice of a "Thou" is reported to be Indrani Rehman, a mother. Well, Bharat's "Omar Khayyam" is certainly going to look a little bony affair.

THAT Russian actor Oleg plus eight other Russians flew all the way from Moscow to Bombay to attend the premiere of Ahmed Abbas' "Pardesi" at the Regal. But they all missed Nargis, who had no petrol for her car, Abbas having forgotten to pay her dues in time. But we thought Nargis was, what they call these days, a "Guest" artiste in "Pardesi".

THAT the two Travancore Sisters, Padmini and Ragini, in their frantic competition with Vyjayantimala to be popular in Hindi films, have recently bought an expensive flat in Bombay, so that Bombay producers—who are usually hard-up—don't have to travel all the way to Madras with their offers of work. The first visitor at the new flat was, of course, Raj Kapoor.

THAT at the fiasco called, "Shab-e-Kashmir" in Bombay—organized to feed the famine-stricken Kashmiris—film stars Jabeen, Smriti Biswas and Meena Kumari stepped on the dais to take part in a beauty competition. They were ranked fifth with the beauty prize going to beautiful Mrs. Gulshan Chinoy, a society girl. That proves that film girls are not considered beautiful by the people.

THAT film actor Dilip Kumar feels very lonely these days because he doesn't meet his "Jani", K. Asif, so frequently. Reason: Asif has become a champion baby-sitter. Probably, he is trying to push the chin back in the little one with which Nigar Sultana obliged him.

THAT the students of Khalsa College realized that Raj Kapoor was illiterate enough not even to be able to read a watch. He arrived two and a half hours late when invited by the boys to a college function. And then he couldn't get the name of the Principal rolling on his tongue properly and gave a speech which, the college boys say, smelt badly. The Khalsaites are going to think a hundred times before they invite another film man to their college in future.

PRASAD PRODUCTIONS' (MADRAS)

SHARADA

RAJ KAPOOR · MEENA KUMARI & SHYAMA

Lyrics RAJINDER KRISHAN · *Music* C.RAMCHANDRA · *Direction* PRASAD

DRAWING PACKED HOUSES

ALL OVER INDIA

UNANIMOUS ACCLAIM FROM THE PRESS!

शारदा
राज कपूर · मीना कुमारी · श्यामा

The Statesman

this production is one that you must not miss. Meena Kumari in particular is to be congratulated on her plausible performance in the title rôle. She has the difficult part of a girl who plays mother to the young man she loved.

The Times of India

"GREAT parts," it is said, "discover great actors." The truth of this statement is proved once again in "Sharada." As the title itself indicates, it is the story of a woman. But she is no ordinary woman. The heroine of the picture is neither the sob sister of the early days of script writing, prototypes of whom continue to dominate the Indian screen even to this day, nor the romantically inclined girl gyrating round trees and measuring the lengths of lakes and bridges with her lover under the spell of a studio-made moon. She is a woman, not the synthetic creation of a hack writer but very human and very much in love—the kind of love that transcends all barriers.

It is a role perplexingly complex, in which a young girl plays mother to the boy she loved. The part is a challenge even to a consummate artist, and called for the best in an actress, a wide range and power of expression. Meena Kumari, who plays the role of the girl orphaned in life and orphaned in love to perfection, has put into it all her histrionic talent. It is not only her best portrayal to date, it is undoubtedly one of the most memorable performances seen on the Indian screen so far. In fact this is one of those rare instances in which an artist is indistinguishable from the character she portrays.

"Sharada" is a film worth seeing twice

Matchless Performance By Meena Kumari In "Sharada"

नवभारत टाइम्स

इस मार्मिक कहानी में संघर्ष है गीतोपदेश की अनुयामिनी नारी और आज की स्वार्थी सभ्यता की पुजारिनी युवती का। इन दो विपरीत विचारों के संघर्ष से चित्र का तारतम्य बांधा गया है।

चित्र में साइ-मुक्तलक्ष्मी बहिनों का जंगली नृत्य है। प्रदर्शन एवं निर्देशन की दृष्टि से वह सुन्दर है। चित्र में एक रंगभूमि का नृत्य भी है। वह भी सुन्दर है।

सज्जा, सामग्री, फोटोग्राफी, सेटिंग आदि में चित्र उच्चकोटि का है।

BLITZ

A truly great film by any standards, and an unforgettable one at that, "Sharada" would have been even greater had the comic sequences been toned down slightly.

THE SUNDAY STANDARD

the present offering is appreciable for its sober, purposeful and varied entertainment values.

मानाक SCREEN

A high-powered melodrama punctuated with good-humoured interludes, this film has tremendous audience appeal. Its story centres round a young woman who finds herself in a situation where she has to play the mother to her own lover because she happens to marry his father. The emotional conflict arising out of the situation has provided material for a profoundly moving melodrama. In presenting it there is no attempt to tackle or offer a solution to any social problem but merely to hold the mirror to a facet of life where facts sometimes prove stranger than fiction. This, however, does not divest the film of its moral purpose for, underlying this apparently subjective theme, there is an attempt to glorify the noble sentiments of Indian womanhood as to serve as an object lesson to

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA

The technical standard of the film is well nigh high. C. Ramchandra's fine musical score adds definitely to the entertainment value of the production, and most of the songs have been rendered in perfect style. Producer-director Prasad deserves sincere congratulations on the overall success of his first venture as a producer and on the painstaking care he has brought so conspicuously to bear on that success.

SEE IT TODAY

Cine Advance

There are admirable technical qualities and Ramchandra has scored again some very well sung songs. Sharada is a picture worthy of the expectation

Producer, Director, Story . Sadash

HINDUSTHAN STANDARD

An emotionally super-charged performance by Meena Kumari makes this Hindi film a rewarding experience for moviegoers

BHARAT JYOTI

"Sharada", premiered at Eros on Wednesday and released simultaneously later at Krishna and two other city cinemas, is the kind of picture that is bound to be liked and talked about and remembered for a long time

In the case of "Sharada", all the restraint, dignity and understanding of the emotional depths have more or less been confined to, rather centralised around, the titular character of a woman who almost defies human nature itself to bestow the love, affection and tender care of a mother on the very man who had once dreamt of making her his wife, the man who in a moment of frenzy and frustration had sworn to destroy her marital happiness, little realising then that she had, by a queer conspiracy of circumstances, married his own father.

Moving Story

"Sharada" has, first and foremost, the basic asset of a moving, human story with a universal appeal, a story so cleverly written and presented that it neither leans too much towards orthodoxy or maudlin sentiment nor oversteps the bounds of custom, tradition and, to a cretain extent, logic to be a fetish of any sentiment.

"Sharada" remains a masty entertainer with plenty of diverting comedy and, of course, the great acting of Meena Kumari as its piece de-resistance.

जनशक्ति

'शारदा' એક એવું ચુસ્ત છે જે મકેદ્યને ચરણે પહોંચે..

The technical standard of the film is much above the average, with C. Ramchandra's bright musical score adding considerably to the film's entertainment value.

"FILMFARE" REVIEWS

"Sharada" is an un-forgettable emotional experience.

Good Portrayals, Pithy Dialogue Make "Sharada" A Memorable Film

...Kumari ...s ...ada' At Eros

MEENA KUMARI gives an excellent performance in Prasad Productions' "Sharada," which is now showing at the Eros, Krishna and other theatres in town. It is a difficult role to perform, but this gifted artiste proves quite equal to her task, and by her brilliant acting augments the sublime beauty of the drama.—EVES WEEKLY—

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MAKING AMENDS?

Bombay, December 11.

After "filmindia's" caustic comments in the September 1957 issue on the working of the Children's Film Society, its suave, sweet-spoken secretary, Mahendranath, appears to have been galvanized into activity. The result is that "Jaldeep", a children's film produced by the Society, was released for morning shows at the Metro, Bombay, on December 10, 1957.

Inaugurating the film show, Chief Minister of Bombay, Mr. Y. B. Chavan, said: "We should guard against putting adult thoughts and words in the minds and mouths of children. Otherwise they will become precocious and unsuitable citizens when they grow up." He wished that children's films should always present "good examples of moral behaviour."

Mr. Chavan announced that the State of Bombay had become a member of the Society by paying an annual subscription of Rs. 10,000/- and that the films produced by the Society would be exempted from entertainment tax.

Evidently Mahendranath is a high pressure salesman. He seems to know the art of extracting money from one and all but our quarrel with Mahendranath is that we have been kept in the dark about the accounts of the Society. As public and government funds are involved, it is the duty of the Society to publish audited accounts. Till this is done our criticism of the Society remains unchallenged. Let us hope Pandit H. N. Kunzru, the learned president of the Children's Film Society, enlightens us soon on its working. The mystery must be unravelled, sooner or later.

SWINGING TO AND FRO

Hollywood, November 30.

Esther Williams, the graceful 'mermaid' of the Hollywood screen, announced her third separation from her husband cum business partner Ben Gage.

This was the third separation in three years which means that the couple did make efforts at reconciliation. There is always a hope as long as they don't resort to divorce—the final and infallible cure for quarrelling couples.

Who knows Esther might again change her mind and call for a reunion? Esther seems to be in need of more honeymoons to keep up her lively spirits. Can't Ben oblige the old girl?

STATE PATRONAGE

New Delhi, December 6.

The Government of India does sometimes act boldly when it decides to encourage someone it patronizes. And since we are continuously flirting with Soviet Russia, our new benefactor, it was not out of place to have given a loan of Rs. 2 lakhs to enterprising Producer K. Ahmed Abbas for his Indo-Soviet venture "Pardesi", now being shown all over the country.

Admitting this fact in a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Dr. B. V. Keskar said that the loan carried an interest of 4% per annum and was repayable from January 1, 1958.

Dr. Keskar also stated that the Government of India had no plans at the moment for producing films in collaboration with foreign countries. There were, however, no restrictions on the production of films by Indian producers jointly with foreign producers.

PRODUCT OF LOVE

Hollywood, December 10.

Charming actress Jeanne Crain, 32, wife of Paul Brinkman, 39, is a champion mother. She delivered recently her fifth child, an eight-pound baby girl christened Lizebett Ann. The parents welcomed the little daughter because she came after four sons. Perhaps Jeanne has begun her series of daughters now.

Some time ago, Jeanne, a loving wife and mother, had separated from Paul. Their reunion, however, has brought forth marvellous results. By the way what is Jeanne's target in the matter of offspring?

UMPTEENTH FILM SOCIETY

Bombay, November 20.

Another society, called the Film Society Of India, (for improving public appreciation of films) was inaugurated in Bombay by Shri M. D. Bhat, Chairman of the Central Board of Film Censors, at the Bhulabhai Desai Memorial Hall on Tuesday, November 19.

Speaking on this occasion, Mr. Bhat said that it was necessary to create an enlightened and effective public opinion in this country about films. This opinion could be expressed only through such bodies and would help to influence eventually the film producers who make the films. More and more film societies should be established.

There are quite a few film societies in India already, some of them being in Calcutta, Madras, etc., but they are run in such a sleepy manner that they can be even considered as defunct bodies. Training the public to appreciate the right films is an arduous task in India where the rate of illiteracy is high and education costly. But idealists like Mr. Bhat have a right to dream of a future in which "enlightened" public opinion will some day mould the quality of our films.

A woman loves money. She can do so much with it and she often does so much to get it. In olden days women never handled money but nowadays men bank their money with women. Nirupa Roy emphasises the magic of money in "Karigar", a social theme.

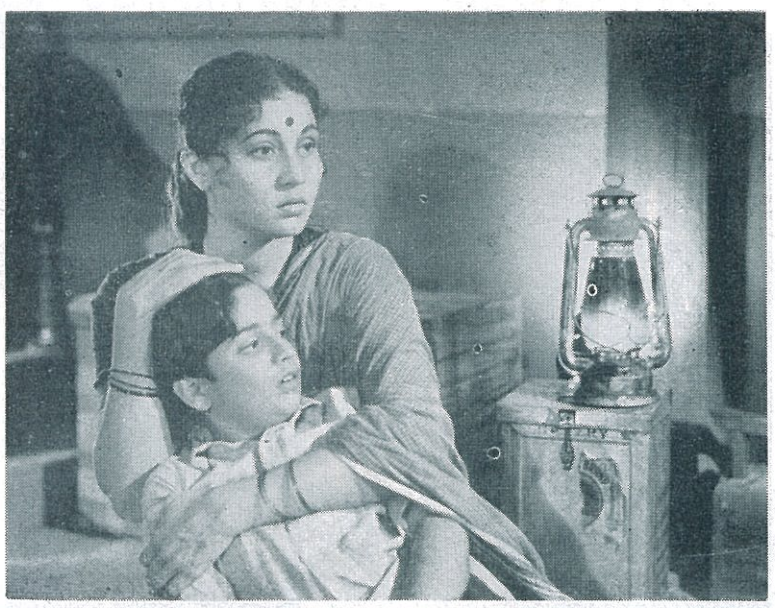
GOING STRONG

Hollywood, December 16.

It is thrilling to report a wedding anniversary in Hollywood, the city of divorces, especially when it happens to be a near silver jubilee affair in the volatile film world.

Veteran screen actor Gary Cooper celebrated his 24th wedding anniversary on December 15, 1957, with his wife Rocky to the joyous smiles of his friends. They have a good-looking 20-year-old daughter.

Let us hope the Coopers live to celebrate their golden jubilee!



A mother always becomes a tigress when her little son gets punishment from the father. Right or wrong, she protects him. Nirupa Roy shields Ramesh Kapoor in "Karigar", a social theme.

PICTURIZING 'GURUDEV'

New Delhi, November 23.

Replying to a question in Lok Sabha, New Delhi, Dr. B. V. Keskar revealed that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was preparing a documentary on the life and teachings of Rabindranath Tagore.

The Ministry was going to consult Shantiniketan as also other institutions and personalities connected with Tagore to make the documentary authentic.

That will give us an opportunity to hear some popular 'Rabindra Sangeet' on the screen!

MUSCLE-TESTING GAME

Hollywood, December 16.

Jayne Mansfield, 24, the blonde-haired, bosomy competitor of Marilyn Monroe, dangled recently a beautiful diamond engagement ring on her finger, probably to warn her admirers: "Hands off Jayne."

The man who has captured Jayne's fancy is 27-year-old Hungarian-born weight lifter and former Mr. Universe, Mickey Hargitay. They will marry soon. For Jayne can't wait too long to test Mickey's muscles.

Jayne, married once before, has a seven-year-old daughter. She reached Hollywood via Broadway after her success in "Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter?"

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PAYING FOR PROPAGANDA

Bombay, December 1.

The Government of Bombay has set apart a sum of Rs. 1 lakh to be given as grants towards certain types of institutions and organizations that do national service through dramas.

These bodies, to be eligible for grants, should be registered either under the Public Charity Trusts Act or the Registration of Societies Act and they should stage their performances in rural areas or in backward localities, either free of cost or at concessional rates. The themes they should tackle are prohibition, Five-Year Plans, sarvodaya, etc.

In short, if one plays the government tune, one is entitled to the grant. The idea seems to be to perpetuate political slavery. How can any impartial writer eulogize prohibition and our Five-Year Plans, knowing fully well that they are admitted failures?

SWIFT WORK

Hollywood, December 5.

Seductive film actress, 35-year-old Yvonne de Carlo and 42-year-old Drew Morgan became parents of a second son. The child weighed 7 lbs. 15 ozs. and has been named Michael Robert.

This is their second son though we didn't suspect the Morgans of such quick work, the first one being hardly a year old. But Drew Morgan being a stunt man is perhaps an adept at these baby-growing stunts.

Yvonne has a big role in Cecil B. De Mille's "The Ten Commandments". After seeing her in this colossal epic, anyone would like to follow the commands given by her.

"UNDER CONSIDERATION"?

New Delhi, December 5.

Obstinacy is a virtue with most white-capped Congressmen and Balu Keskar, our Minister for Information and Broadcasting, is no exception though he sports a bald pate in place of a white cap.

In a written reply to Mr. D. C. Sharma in Lok Sabha, Balu said that the proposal to erect an experimental television unit for social and educational purposes in Delhi was still under consideration. A final decision would be taken after making arrangements for the acquisition of the equipment ordered from abroad.

Balu also revealed that Rs. 10,000 had been spent on a statue—the lady with a veena—which was being installed in Broadcasting House, New Delhi.

Ordering the equipment from abroad is itself another way of saying that we are committed to this costly scheme of television. Could we not have given up television with such a tight foreign exchange position prevailing?

SEX SCIENTIST

Paris, December 15.

The French trademark for sultry sex these days is well-proportioned 23-year-old French actress, Brigitte Bardot, whose pictures are a craze in Europe and the Middle East. Every picture she makes, she gets about 30 million francs (that is more than £70,000).

But all this dizzy success has not given Brigitte a happy home. Married to director Roger Vadim for six years, the couple got a divorce recently on grounds of incompatibility. The judge said that both had been guilty of "seriously insulting" each other.

But with francs flowing in, the "sex kitten" has no time to brood. BB—the short form for Brigitte Bardot—has already expressed her desire to marry young French actor, Jean Louis Trintignan, her co-star in several films.

Youth is an age of experiments and BB believes in testing out her willing victims fully.

BALU AT IT AGAIN

New Delhi, Decemer 11.

A bill for a film finance corporation is being drafted and is almost ready.

Giving this information in the Lok Sabha on December 10, 1957, Dr. B. V. Keskar said that it would take a little time to

establish a film institute in view of the shortage of foreign exchange.

The Film Institute will impart training in various aspects of film production like cinematography, sound engineering and direction. The Film Commissioner will be the directional head of the Film Institute and the Film Production Bureau.

Let us hope that the Government employs the right men to do the job. Otherwise it will only add more misery to the existing one in the Indian film industry.

As regards the film finance corporation, the Government seems to be having a large surplus to waste.

CAKE AND CREAM

New York, December 11.

In India where insolvency is nothing new to a film producer, the success story of 20th Century Fox must read like an enchanting fairy tale.

In spite of keen competition from television, 20th Century Fox in the first nine months of 1957 showed a total income of $95,550,000 as compared with $87,150,000 of 1956. Earnings came to $5,600,000 for the said period as against $3,180,000 in 1956.

20th Century introduced and developed the Cinemascope and soon their films began to bring in huge profits. President Spyros P. Skouras, under whose intelligent guidance the company has been progressing, is being awarded the annual Milestone Award of the Screen Producers Guild.

For 1958, 20th Century will utilize $60,000,000 to make 70 feature films. Their claim of being "the world's most successful film company", therefore, doesn't seem to be a tall one. The shareholders of 20th Century can now have not only bread and butter but cheese cake and ice-cream.

DISGUSTING TIRADE

Karachi, December 2.

The unrelenting, disgusting tirade of Pakistani film producers and directors against Indian films is going from bad to worse.

A deputation consisting of Husain Baig Mohamed, Mirza Sibtain, F. A. Himalayawalla, Noor Mohammed Charlie and others, waited on Mr. Fazlur Rehman, Pakistan's Commerce Minister and asked the Pakistan Government to ban totally the import of Indian films into Pakistan.

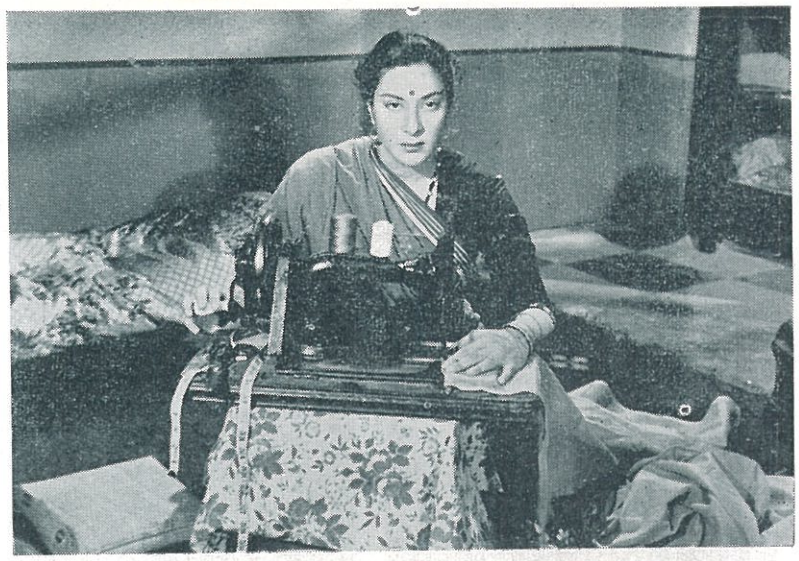
Already some licences granted by the previous Government for importing a few Indian films had been cancelled after presentation of a memorandum from these producers. The present agitation was for a complete ban.

In a country where the Government is so unstable anything can happen. If Pakistanis don't want to see Indian films, the loss is entirely theirs. The talltalking Pak film producer has still to produce one picture to compare with our third-rate ones, let alone touching the quality of our first rate ones like "Mother India".

3-CRORE BALL BUY

Hollywood, December 6.

The old saying: "Nothing succeeds like success" was never more true than in the case of talented 46-year-old screen and TV actress Lucille Ball.

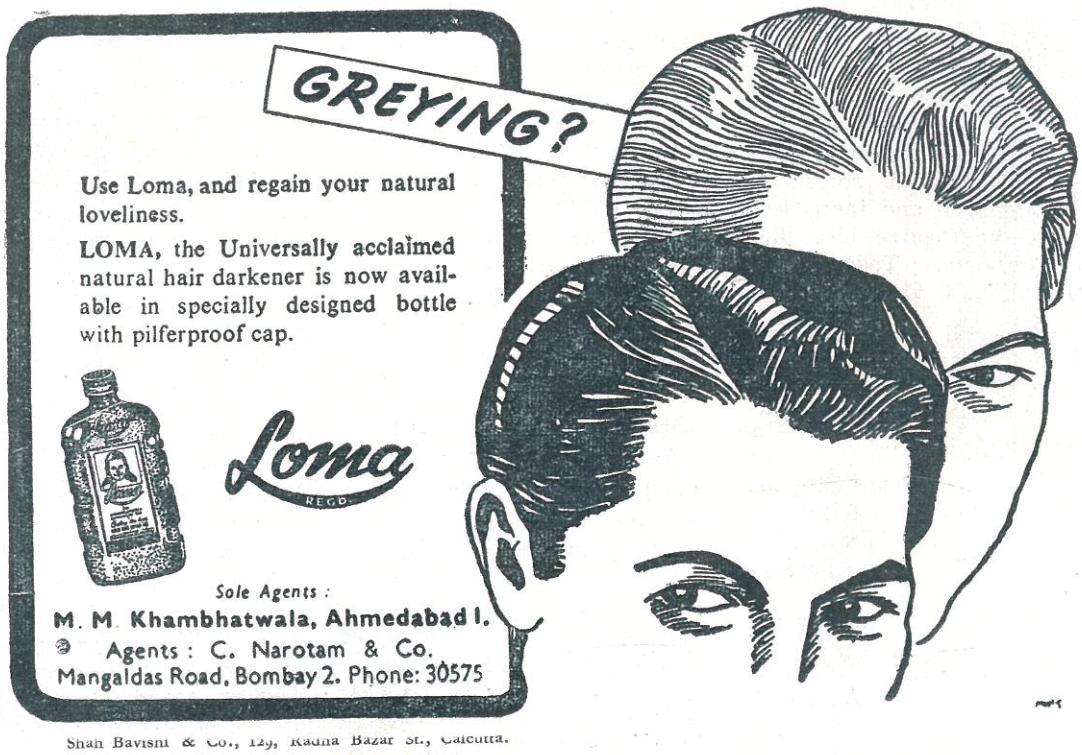


Nargis has become an expert housewife now. She has played the wife so many times that she can now smell a missing button without even touching the trousers. This great artiste can certainly take one more role in her stride in "Ghar Sansar", a domestic tale produced by Pushpa Pictures.

Lucille, who began as a bit player once upon a time in the RKO Studios, bought these very studios for her company Desilu for a sum of 6 million dollars (three crores of rupees). Lucille runs the company in partnership with Desi Arnaz, her husband.

Lucille was first introduced to the screen in Goldwyn's "Roman Scandals" and then she made some more pictures. But she struck gold only when she worked in the television play "I Love Lucy" with Desi Arnaz.

The vivacious red-haired comedienne has come up the hard way. She deserves to taste the fruits of her sweat and toil. Hard work combined with luck has worked wonders for Lucille.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She is not threatening to slap. A woman never smiles while doing so. Helen is merely showing the line of destiny on her palm and wants to know whether it will do in "Khazanchi"? We can't answer the question unless we see the lines on producer Arora's palm.

NATIONAL THEATRE

London, December 4.

The Britisher's love for the stage is a proud, national tradition that has its roots right from the days of Shakespeare. But Britain, strangely enough, has still to have its own National Theatre.

An Act of Parliament, eight years ago, authorized the building of a theatre estimated to cost £1,000,000 but somehow owing to delays and increased estimates, the theatre idea did not materialize. Today the theatre will cost £1,750,000.

Now a special committee has been appointed under Viscount Esher to coax the government to shell out the money through strong public opinion.

Though an American millionaire made an offer of funds, Viscount Esher said: "We cannot have an American paying for it. The cost is a matter for the state. We do not want money, only support."

When the people want something badly, they will have it. And the stage-loving British will have their National Theatre one day.

FOOLS RUSH IN

Teheran, December 7.

Mehboob's "Aan" paved the way for more Indian films in the Middle East by its spectacular success. Indian film music and Indian films are now a common feature in Teheran.

But in their enthusiasm to make money anyhow, two film importing companies have flooded the Iranian market with 70 second-rate Indian films. This in the long run will "kill" the market for Indian films.

India's trade representative in Iran suggested some regulation by the film trade in India.

The Indian film industry was never known for its wisdom. That will be asking too much.

SOLID DOLLAR TRICK

Hollywood, November 18.

Cecil B. DeMille, the Hollywood producer who harnesses the Bible for minting more dollars, will soon create a world record for collections with his spectacular 13.5 million-dollar production "The Ten Commandments."

So far it has been seen by 22 million moviegoers. It has grossed more than 29 million dollars in 917 theatres. The record up till now was held by "Gone With The Wind" collecting $33.5 million. "The Ten Commandments" has still to run in many more theatres and it will soon beat "Gone With The Wind".

At last De Mille has succeeded. The Indian magician may know the rope trick but De Mille knows the dollar trick. This is a case of abstract religion paying back in solid dollars.

STALE SLANDER

London, November 24.

A 22-year-old Korda film, "Sanders Of The River" starring Paul Robeson shown on television, has created a furore amongst Nigerians in London because of its "offensive" contents.

Mr. Matthew T. Mbu, the Commissioner for Nigeria, demanded a withdrawal of the said film because it brought "disgrace and disrepute" to Nigerians. It portrayed Nigeria as "a country of half-naked barbarians still living in caves" and was likely to create ill-feeling against Nigerians in Britain because it showed a British administrative officer being killed in cold blood."

Nigeria is graduating for freedom soon. No wonder the Nigerians feel touchy about this slanderous film.

GENEROUS WILL

Hollywood, November 30.

Louis B. Mayer, the multi-millionaire movie magnate, who died recently, left behind a huge fortune for his heirs.

This is how the fortune consisting of 13 million dollars and an estate will be distributed. The bulk of it will go to charity, the Louis B. Mayer Foundation. A sum of $2,500,000 goes to his second wife Lorena, $750,000 to his daughter Irene Selznick, $500,000 to his adopted daughter Suzanne and another $500,000 to his loyal friends.

His other 52-year-old daughter Edith and her husband, Producer William Goetz got nothing. In his will Mayer stated: "During my lifetime I have given them extremely substantial assistance through gifts and financial assistance to my daughter's husband and through the advancement of his career (as distinguished from that of my former son-in-law Producer David O'Selznick who never requested assistance from me) in the motion picture industry."

Those who knew Mayer intimately, however, said that both Edith and Bill had supported Adlai Stevenson in the last presidential election while Mayer was all for Ike. This had infuriated the old man.

Anyway a good amount has been dedicated to charity and that is all that matters.

TELE-CRAZY

Tokyo, December 9.

The Japanese must mimic the Americans in as many things as possible. One such item is television which is becoming more and more popular in Japan.

There are now 629,595 TV sets, the city of Tokyo leading with 33,847 sets. When TV broadcasting was started in Japan on February 1, 1953, there were only 866 registered receiving sets.

The early sets cost 500 dollars each, today's sets are available at 200 dollars per unit.

The Japanese are fast becoming tele-crazy.

MORE EXEMPTIONS

Bombay, December 5.

The Government of Bombay has exempted all future shows of the 16 mm documentary film "Shri Kailas and Mansarovar" from entertainment duty in the pre-organized State of Bombay excluding the transferred territories and in the Saurashtra and Kutch areas.

Entertainment duty would, however, be levied if other commercial films are shown with this documentary.

WORKING AT LOSS

London, November 22.

According to the balance sheet figures of Associated-Redifussion one of the biggest companies in British sponsored television, the company has lost nearly one million pounds during the year ending April 30, 1957. The loss revealed follows an admission that in the 22 months up to December 1956, there was a deficit of £3,250,000.

Now advertisers are using this medium more and it is pos-

sible to operate "at a satisfactory profit" stated the film's chairman, Mr. John Spencer Wills.

Since the company began its activity, it has produced 130 full-length plays. It has paid out £160,000 for scripts, 90% of the money going to British writers.

FOR ADULTS ONLY

New Delhi, December 1.

Filmistan's "Paying Guest" which had been banned by the Government of India on grounds of suggestive vulgarity, has now been granted an adult certificate. This is a late fee action because "Paying Guest" has been already released in most of the towns in India.

Another film which has met with a similar fate is AVM's "Bhai Bhai" which now gets an "A" billing.

Let us hope curious youngsters are really kept away from these 'A' films.

SABITA-GOURANGA STARRER

Calcutta, December 1.

Popular Bengali film actress, Sabita Chatterjee, and Gouranga P. Bose, well-known film producer, were married according to Hindu rites in Calcutta on Wednesday, November 27.

Many from the film industry —stars, producers, directors and technicians—were present to bless the couple.

Sabita was seen in Bimal Roy's "Parivar". That was her first Hindi picture outside Calcutta. Charming and accomplished, Sabita seems to be on the brink of a successful screen career. Whether she will forsake the screen for the home remains to be seen.

PREPARING FOR AWARDS

New Delhi, November 16.

The Rules to regulate the grant of State Awards for films have been recently collated and published by the Government of India.

Indian feature, documentary and children's films certified for public exhibition in the preceding calendar year are eligible for entry.

Recommendations will be made by three Regional Committees from Bombay, Madras and Calcutta to the Central Committee.

The Central Committee consists of 12 persons and the Regional Committees of 8 persons each, all nominated by the Government of India. There will be three qualified persons to judge technical standards, direction, etc., and four persons of culture, art or literature on these Committees.

State Awards for films were instituted in 1954. Now let us reserve our judgment about these Committees after hearing their choice of the best picture of 1957.

LONGER LIFE

New Delhi, November 29.

The life of a censor certificate according to present rules lasts for 5 years but the Government of India will soon amend the Censorship Rules to extend it to 10 years.

The Cinematograph Bill which has been dropped had contained a stipulation to this effect and hence it is being incorporated in the Censorship Rules.

The extension of the censor certificate to 10 years will save money, time and bother. Of course when there is trouble about a particular film, it can always be re-censored.

BRANDO DOES IT

Hollywood, November 30.

Film actress Anna Kashfi, now wife of actor Marlon Brando, is expecting a visit from the stork in July 1958. The impatient Marlon couldn't wait too long to see the product of their joint union.

Commenting on this happy

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It is only at certain premieres that producers can meet Baburao Patel these days. During the day he is found in Aayakar Bhuwan. This time the press photographer caught him at the premiere of "Bhabhi", between Shyama and Producer Meiyappan Chettiar.

news, Anna Kashfi's mother, Mrs. Phoebe O'Callaghan, living in Cardiff said: "Marlon should have written to us. But he doesn't seem to want to know us. I sent her for her 23rd birthday in September a letter and card but she never even thanked me for it. Since then we have had no letter, no news, not a word about the baby, our first grandchild. All we hear is second-hand news."

Phoebe blamed Hollywood for the change in her daughter's behaviour. Anna, apparently, is hurt over the stupid controversy started by her parents over whether she was an Indian or not.

Indian or not, Anna had enough in her to attract Marlon. Sex is not bound by any nationality. Let us hope the little edition in making turns out to be a baby girl, as charming as Anna herself.

CRIME ON TELEVISION

London, December 9.

The Council for Children's Welfare in London is frankly worried about the effect of American television on 3,500,000 British children every night. The Council is of the opinion that these television programmes are turning children into neurotics, ruining their eyesight and slowing their speech.

Dr. Simon Yudkin, Secretary of the Council, announced that volunteer "vigilant" panels will be set up in Britain to observe sex, sadism and suffering on TV programmes. One schoolmaster complained that the three western movies a week on commercial children's television were spoiling them.

The Council had once agitated for banning horror comics and succeeded. Children need to be protected from the onslaughts of objectionable programmes. American television companies don't seem to realize yet the immense harm they are causing to their own children and the outsiders.

A PROMISING 'DOUBLE'

Hollywood, November 25.

A young actor, Robert Evans, 28, who is likely to be a hit with filmgoers soon, has portrayed the late Irving Thalberg, husband of film actress Norma Shearer, in the "Man Of A Thousand Faces" starring James Cagney. It deals with the life of actor Lon Chaney who was a close friend of Thalberg.

Norma, who had consistently disliked the idea of anyone portraying her husband on the screen and refused permission to the studios to do so, herself spotted Evans at a swimming pool in the Beverley Hills Hotel. She was struck by his resemblance to her late husband and decided to cast him as Irving Thalberg in "Man Of A Thousand Faces".

Though Evans is at present in the sports-wear business, he has worked in more than a hundred radio shows.

NEST FOR COOING

New York, November 27.

Marilyn Monroe, the explosive sex bomb of America and hubby Arthur Miller, have bought a big property in Roxbury, Connecticut. They are planning to build a beautiful house here where they could spend their leisure in peace and comfort.

Marilyn is likely to be cast in "Blue Angel", the old picture that made an overnight star of Marlene Dietrich.

IN HIGH COURT

Bombay, December 5.

Film actress Nargis filed a revision petition in the Bombay High Court against the order of Mr. N. Nemazee, Presidency Magistrate, Girgaum Court, overruling a preliminary objection raised on her behalf at her trial on a charge of causing obstruction to the police.

The preliminary objection raised at the last hearing related to the non-production of the order of the Police Commissioner in regard to the withdrawal of the prosecution when the film star was first charged before a Presidency Magistrate.

The hearing was adjourned.

BATTLE OF WORDS

Hollywood, December 2.

Very rarely is an author satisfied with the screen treatment of his works. The author and the producer often clash and when they do some fiery exchange of words is but natural.

Ernest Hemingway seems to have been unhappy over Darryl F. Zanuck's treatment of his one-time best-seller "The Sun Also Rises." Said Hemingway to a London newsreporter; "I saw Darryl Zanuck's slashy Cook's tour of Europe's lost-generation bistros. It's all pretty disappointing, and that's being gracious. You're meant to be in Spain and all you see walking around are nothing but Mexicans. Pretty silly."

Darryl Zanuck, who paid Hemingway $15,000 for the rights of this book published in 1926, retorted: "A lousy thing to say. He doesn't have the right to destroy publicly something he's been paid money for. If the picture doesn't satisfy Hemingway, he should read the book again because then the book won't satisfy him. I don't think he saw the picture. I think someone told him about it."

But whether satisfying or disappointing, Zanuck will make enough money on the picture.

LUCKY PRODUCER

Jodhpur, December 13.

The Government of Rajasthan has exempted Mehboob's screen classic "Mother India" from payment of entertainment tax, following the example set by the Government of Bombay.

But the Government of Bombay has gone a step further and refunded the tax thus collected to the producer. It is time the other States emulated Bombay's worthy example.

SAM'S NEW AMBITION

Hollywood, December 2.

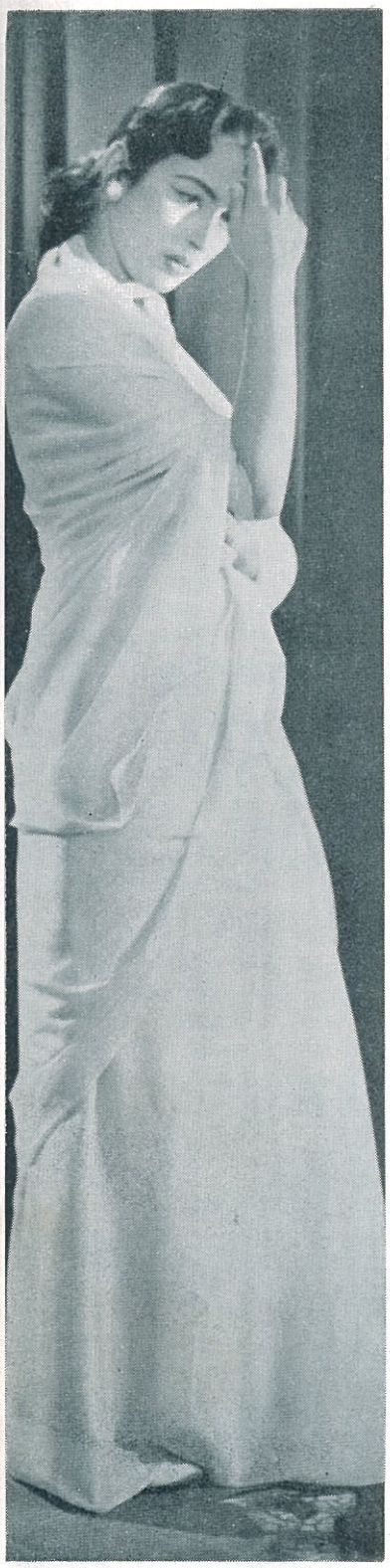
The Negro folk opera "Porgy And Bess" has had evergreen appeal for stage-lovers. It has been played on Broadway several times while the show was even carried beyond the Iron Curtain a year or two ago. The Soviet critics and the public were raving over this popular opera.

So Producer Samuel Goldwyn decided to picturize it but it looks as if the Negroes have taken it into their heads to boycott it in a silent way.

Two Negro actors, Harry Belafonte of "Island In The Sun" fame and Sidney Poitier have turned down offers to work in "Porgy And Bess" and Goldwyn thinks "it is an underground movement by radicals." Said Goldwyn: "Among Negro performers I have found a certain fear that this play may not be good for their race."

The National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People said "that among Negro Americans there is a division of opinion as to the value of the play. But the N.A.A.C.P. has taken no position on 'Porgy And Bess.' "

But Sam has set his heart on it for "this play has more poetry than almost anything I've ever produced." Let us see who wins in the end.



Those who have a head often get a headache. Those who don't have one seem to be happy. Life has become a very complicated affair these days and women, who once had no worries, have also to do a lot of thinking. But Nutan seems to be doing some visible thinking in "Kabhi Andhera Kabhi Ujala", a sensational social theme produced by Sardar Ajit Singh.

NO SMOKING

Hyderabad, December 4.

The Police Commissioner of Hyderabad re-imposed the ban on smoking in cinema houses lifted about eight months ago.

The 'Char Minar' bidi smoke in the auditoriums doesn't appear to be popular with the Hyderabadis at least. They made several representations to the Commissioner to re-impose the ban.

A ban on smoking, is, of course, the right thing in most of our ill-ventilated, suffocating theatres.

FUNNY MAN'S 'FUN'

New York, December 4.

Well-known TV comedian, 35-year-old Steve Allen and red-haired TV actress-wife Jayne Meadows got their first child, a son, in New York.

Steve is known as the funny man on TV. This time his "fun" came home to roost.

TWILIGHT OR DARKNESS?

Hollywood, December 5.

Handsome actor Rock Hudson seen recently in "Battle Hymn" is reported to have separated from his wife Phyllis. As they were known to be a loving couple, it is apparent that something has rubbed the wrong way with Rock.

Rock, who is climbing the ladder of success with one picture after another, has been selected as the "best actor of the year" by the Theatre Owners of America. He will fly to Miami to accept the award in person.

Rock is currently acting in "Twilight For the Gods". But in his own home there is not much of twilight, only the gathering clouds of darkness.

'GAME' NOT OBSCENE

Washington D.C., Dec. 2.

A French picture, "The Game Of Love", the screening of which was nipped in the bud by Timothy J. O'Connor, Chicago Police Commissioner, banning it, and the district court and the federal circuit court of appeals upholding the ban, came again in the news recently before the U.S. Supreme Court. Timothy said that the picture was obscene and roused him sexually.

Supreme Court Justice, William J. Brennan, in his ruling reversed the decision of the federal circuit court of appeals upholding the Chicago ban of the French film "The Game Of Love", after seeing it at a private show.

Justice Brennan said: "Sex is a great and mysterious motive force in human life. Sex and obscenity are not synonymous. Obscenity deals with sex in a manner appealing to prurient interest."

The U.S. distributor had appealed on two grounds, that the picture is not obscene and that the city's censorship ordinance was unconstitutional.

"The Game Of Love" shows a teenager being seduced by an older woman. As the theme goes, it can't be considered as universal fare.

FIGHTING OVER SPOILS

London, December 5.

There was some drama in the Chancery Division Court when Mrs. Beatrice Maria Korda, first wife of the late Sir Alexander Korda, pressed her claims against Korda's estate. Because of her behaviour she was ordered by the judge to be removed from the Court.

Mrs. Korda claimed that under an agreement made between her and Sir Alexander Korda in America in 1941 she was entitled to 1250 dollars a month from his estate "even if it meant that she would get the whole estate." But the judge held that Mrs. Korda was entitled to a quarter of the net income of the estate, "no more and no less." As regards a collection of paintings valued at £112,250 the judge ruled that they were left to his third wife, now Mrs. Alexandria Irene Metcalfe.

Beatrice who kept sobbing and crying by turns said, "I will appeal and appeal again till I reach the Queen."

ACQUITTED

Bombay, December 12.

Presidency Magistrate S. A. Hattea, Esplanade Court, acquitted Dayalsingh Motisingh and Jethabhai Narsi, partners in Mahaluxmi Transport Company, of the charge of "rash and negligent act" of storing old cinema films in the godown on the ground floor of the building and thereby causing fire. The disastrous fire broke out in Noor Hospital Building on Mohammed Ali Road in January 1956, killing two persons and injuring eight. The prosecution stated that 27 packages of waste films arrived in Bombay by a truck belonging to the transport service operated by the accused and were stored in the godown.

The defendants said that they had no knowledge that the packages contained films as the work of receiving and storing was done by Dayalal, an employee of theirs.

The Court held that the knowledge of Dayalal was not the knowledge of the firm. The court, however, did not accept the defence plea that the fire might have resulted from a short circuit. The Court held that the fire had taken place as a result of storing of cinema films and that Dayalal knew he was storing films.

The careless storing of highly inflammable films in private buildings has taken a toll of many precious lives in the past. It is high time the Municipal authorities became more vigilant and stopped this danger to innocent residents.

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OUR REVIEW

"Pardesi" A Good Frame Without A Portrait

Picture Insults Maharashtrian Womanhood

We congratulate Producer K. Ahmed Abbas for his unique enterprise in bringing to the Indian screen a visually beautiful picture produced with "Hindi - Russi - Bhai - Bhai" co-operation.

"Pardesi" is an eyeful of pictorial beauty. It has vivid colour and effective photography with a scenic background at once striking and beautiful.

But with this, all the beauty of the picture ends because when the story begins, Abbas pushes it behind our eyes, to the brain, and compels us to think over the stuff which he presents in such a beautiful frame forged with international cooperation.

That brings us to the burden of good, old Abbas' tale in Sovcolor. "Pardesi", is, of course, a propaganda picture—a picture for Communist propaganda in India—designed to further the Bhai-Bhai theme first launched by Bulganin and Khrushchev when they heartily embraced our Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, in June 1955, in Moscow.

THE "PROPHETIC" SONG

To fulfil the ultimate Communist design on India, this theme of embracing has to go on from day to day and Ahmed Abbas now tells us in "Pardesi" that Bulganin, Khrushchev and Nehru were not the pioneers in this "Bhai-Bhai" embrace but that the embracing Bhai-Bhaiship between the two countries began way back in the fifteenth century when Sakharam, the singing sage of Maharashtra (not Tukaram, mind you) first embraced Afanasi (or was it Athanasius?) Nikitin when the latter visited India to satisfy his wanderlust. And Abbas tells us that while he did so, he laid the foundation of a permanent embrace between Russia and India. In fact Abbas has even made a song about it which Sakharam sings as follows:

"Far away you shall go, but only far from our eyes,
In our hearts you shall dwell for ever—
A hundred times you will come back to us in the ages to come,
We shall meet again, my friend, we shall meet again!"

How prophetic, seeing that Bulganin and Khrushchev met Nehru in Moscow and Bulganin and Khrushchev also visited India and met Nehru again! Abbas, however, does not tell us in whom the spirit of Afanasi has entered—in Bulganin or in Khrushchev?

Abbas' prophetic song—which is of course, a poem of wisdom after the event—is sung with tears in both Indian and Russian eyes as Afanasi leaves the shores of India, leaving behind Champa, a Maharashtrian peasant girl, singing a lullaby to her first baby.

To buttress up the usual propaganda of the Russian Communists that they not only are but also have been the firsts in every human activity under the sun, Abbas tells us that "Up to the 15th century, no travellers from Europe had arrived in India." Therefore, according to Abbas and his Communist friends, Afanasi Nikitin was the first European traveller who "discovered" India in 1467 A.D.

Now that easy assumption is a bit tough on history because history tells us that Alexander the Great of Macedonia, a European country, crossed the Indus and entered the Punjab in B.C. 326 i.e. 1793 years before the bearded Russian landed at Chaul, 30 miles south of Bombay.

History also tells us that the Venetian traveller Marco Polo (Venice is in Europe) was sent to India as an envoy by Kublai Khan in 1280 A.D.—good 187 years before the Russian Afanasi. And Marco Polo being an Italian was also a European.

History also tells us that in 1291 A.D., i.e. 176 years before Abbas' hero—John de Monte Carvano, a Christian missionary sent by Pope Nicholas IV, lived in India for 13 months.

At a certain age, every limb of a woman has a tension that can thrill male hearts a mile away. Whichever way she moves her muscles, new curves are formed giving new cataracts to male eyes. Look at Mala Sinha, at an age dangerous to the peace of the world, defying us all with a carefree smile in the new picture of Producer P. N. Arora. This is one girl he had missed so far.

And once again history tells us that in 1321 A.D., i.e. 146 years before Afanasi, the Russian, Friar Jordanus Catalani, a French Dominican missionary, landed at Tana near Bombay and later lived at Broach and Quilon for 20 years to die as Bishop Jordanus.

K. Ahmed Abbas thus begins his tale with a historical lie. And that is a bad beginning to any political propaganda, even for Communist propaganda, which is often full of unblushing lies.

MYTHICAL GEOGRAPHY

Perpetrating this historical fraud on poor, credulous Indians, Abbas, in his anxiety to emphasize the unique greatness of his Communist Bhaijans, proceeds to present us with a geographical puzzle. Abbas says, "Afanasi sailed down the Volga, braved no less than three seas, walked across the waterless deserts of Iran and Arabia, sailed in an Arab dhow across the Indian Ocean and eventually landed on the west coast of India at Chaul."

Now, if we travel with Afanasi down the Volga, and people in those days always took the shortest route, we do arrive at that pond called the Caspian Sea. Crossing that we do reach Iran. And then we do cross the waterless deserts of Iran and arrive at, say Bandar Abbas, a famous port in olden days named after another Abbas, and

from there we get into the Arabian Sea and reach Bombay. How did then Afanasi brave three seas when so many don't lie across the way? And how did he walk across the desert of Arabia which was thousands of miles away from his route? And why did he leave the Arabian Sea alone and get into the Indian Ocean, which begins at 10° South of the Equator seeing that his sea route lay 25° North of the Equator?

People who create political propaganda should be very careful about their historical facts and geographical bearings to give their lies at least a veneer of some truth.

Anyway, Afanasi lands at Chaul, 30 miles South of Bombay. (Chaul or Cheul is a place of great antiquity. It still exists on the right bank of the Roha creek in the Alibag Taluka. It had two other names in history: Champavati and Revatikshetra. In the 14th century it was a great centre of Yadava power in the Konkan. Athanasius Nikitin, the Russian traveller, called it Chivil).

But where Abbas' Afanasi lands is not a flourishing town of any political power as it was expected to be in 1467 A.D., but a fisherman's village with a village 'mela' in full swing and half-clad Indians spread all over the place.

In this 'mela' some one steals Afanasi's horse, which he had brought over with him. Abbas tells us that it was stolen by the Muslim Governor of Junnar, who was, it seems, a professional horse-thief. Afanasi becomes angry at losing his horse and does not know what to do when he meets Sakharam, the singing sage, who tells him to approach the Muslim Governor of Junnar. Now Junnar is today 70 miles from Chaul or Cheul as the crow flies with the Western Ghats lying in the way. But within a few minutes, Afanasi is ushered in the presence of the Governor of Junnar as if Junnar was but a suburb of Chaul. We shall give Abbas the benefit of doubt and say that the Governor probably attracted by the half-covered bodies of the fisherwomen of Chaul, had camped at the seaside village for some sea air. But then the name of Junnar need not have come into the story at all.

The horse is, of course, restored to Afanasi through the good graces of one Hassan Beg, an Iranian Ambassador, who was also visiting India then. Must say that the Iranian Ambassadors of those days were more helpful than the fellows we have now who give big parties only to collect our fashionable women.

HIS ROMANTIC ACCIDENT

But let us not forget the incident which proves that Afanasi was also a 'madari'. When searching for his horse, he comes across a weeping Maharashtrian family of peasants. The mother is weeping excitedly over the snake-bite which her grown-up daughter had got. The father is ringing the temple bell to wake up God and His priest. And the daughter is lying across the steps of the temple. The temple is, of course, brought bodily from Mahabalipuram to Chaul, a distance of 800 miles, for the picture. When Hanuman could carry the Dronagiri mountain to Lanka, why couldn't our little Abbas bring the Mahabalipuram temple to Chaul?

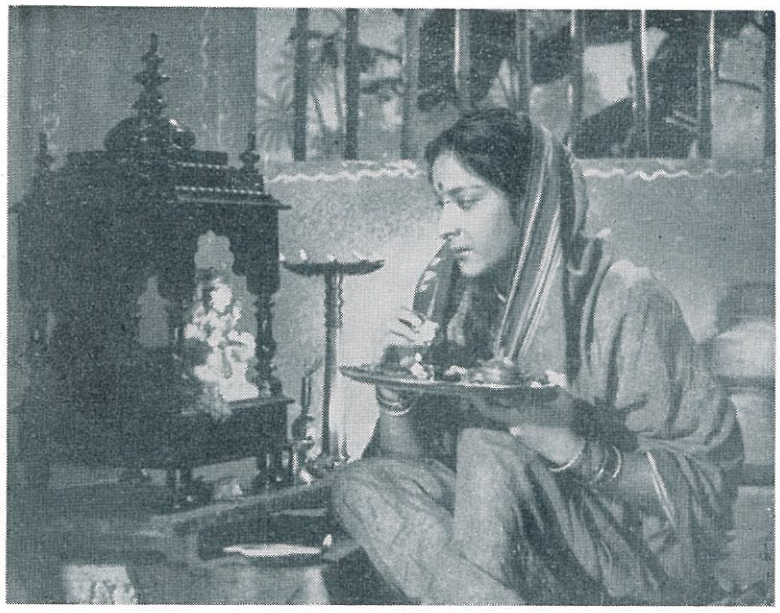
Now strange as it may seem, Afanasi the man from a land where there are fewer snakes than in India, brings out a snake-cure from the box his mother had given him, applies the same to the girl's wound and walks away quietly saying that she would be all right very soon. True enough, the matronly daughter of the peasant becomes all right. Thus Indians of this land of snakes needed a Russian to save the life of the daughter of their soil. What a helpless people? Seeing that millions of Indians die of snake-bites every year, let us at least import some Russians for their snake-cures.

Now Afanasi starts upon some aimless cross-country riding on a beautiful mare, suspiciously looking like Tehmi Vakeel's Soheilla. We have often seen this sensitive mare on the racecourse ridden gracefully by Miss Tehmi Vakeel. But Afanasi treats the mare like a Cossack horse ridden out for plunder and pillage. He keeps riding aimlessly till the rains come.

And as film coincidence would have it when he stops under a tree, the peasant mother of Champa, the snake-bitten girl, spots the saviour of her daughter. Maharashtrian farmers being hospitable, Champa's father brings Afanasi into the house and Afanasi soon settles down in the farmer's home for a comfortable stay of several months.

INSULTING MAHARASHTRA

Here, however, begins the objectionable part of the picture. Abbas shows us that Champa, the grown-up girl of a Maharashtrian farmer brought up in old traditions, falls in love with Afanasi at first sight. We refuse to believe this, knowing the conservative nature of all Maharashtrians, whether peasants or princes. Of all the communities in India, the Maharashtrian community is perhaps the slowest in romantic initiative. It is almost impossible for a Maharashtrian peasant girl to fall in love with a white-skinned foreigner at first sight, even if that foreigner had saved her ten lives in a row.



God is the biggest shop-keeper of women. They go to him for all sorts of things, flowers in hand and prayers on their lips. And, frankly, God seems to like the woman more than the man seeing that He has given her the cradle of new life. Nargis, our great artiste, brings new romance to the screen in "Pardesi", a Sovcolor picture produced by Naya Sansar International.

Exquisite...

When a young man becomes too serious in love, a young woman begins to shiver. She wants a little horseplay—not the horse itself. Chitra and Rajendra Kumar make a new romantic team in "Khazanchi", a love tale.

Abbas also makes Champa go to the family altar and pray for the rains to continue ceaselessly so that the foreigner may continue to live in her house. This again is a fantastic situation to place a Maharashtrian girl in, particularly when she is engaged to be married. No Maharashtrian girl, worth her mettle, would sin so obviously.

Apart from the frivolous manner in which Champa's character has been generally portrayed by Abbas to emphasize the inherent virtues of a Russian, the scene in which Champa wears Afanasi's cap, clothes and shoes and mimicks him before her village companions is perhaps the most objectionable part of the picture.

We would like Abbas to find one Maharashtrian girl in her puberty even in modern India, leave alone 500 years ago, who would deign to wear the clothes of another man—Indian or foreign—and behave in a cheap and frivolous manner as Champa has been shown to have done in "Pardesi".

Seeing that the entire Hindu religion and traditions of this ancient country have revolved round the sanctity of a woman's person through centuries, it is impossible even to imagine that a young Hindu girl would commit the sacrilegious act of defiling her body by wearing the clothes of a strange man. Even a low Hindu prostitute would not do this in the year of Our Lord 1958. It is an odious thing to show a scene like that and we can attribute it only to Abbas's abysmal ignorance of the traditional Hindu way of life.

Let us hope that some Atre or Savarkar doesn't see this picture otherwise this part of the picture will have to be excised in a hurry. Abbas has unconsciously insulted the entire Maharashtrian womanhood by this rude and indecent sequence and in doing so has given the Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti one more grievance against the present Government and its blind methods of censoring pictures. The sequence becomes unpardonable for a Muslim producer who has scrupulously avoided exposing Muslim 'begums' of the day and has thrown only young Hindu women—like Champa and Laxmi, the dancer,—at the feet of the foreigner with easy love in their eyes and scant regard for the sanctity of their person. We would turn round and ask Abbas how Afanasi, the Russian traveller, did not get even the glimpse of a single Muslim woman, young or old—rich or poor, throughout the whole picture seeing that the part of the country through which Afanasi is shown as travelling was then under Muslim rule. Abbas shows plenty of Muslim officers and soldiers but not one Muslim woman.

If it was Abbas' intention to respect the inviolability of the 'purdah' of the Muslim women of those times, we are all with him. But then why should he outrage the sanctity of the persons of Hindu women by defiling them with a stranger's clothes or company in private communion of romantic intimacy?

MUSLIM VIEW OF INDIA

In fact the entire picture suffers from this typically ignorant and superficial Muslim view of Hindu life in India. Not knowing the spiritual significance of location which inspired the ancient Hindus to build their shrines at various places, Abbas lifts the temples of Mahabalipuram and uses them as a background in Chaul. Not realizing the diversity of our cultural heritage, Abbas brings South Indian temples to Chaul on the Western Coast and in doing so atrociously jumbles up the milestones of Hindu history and religion. To this Aurangzeb of motion pictures, any Hindu temple seemed to be as good as another, so long as it was not a mosque.

The entire picture is punctuated by this type of idiotic and vandalic confusion hurting Hindu religious sentiment and throwing to winds the elementary principles of motion picture geography. This mosque-conscious Aurangzeb of motion pictures wants us to believe that in Chaul, 30 miles South of Bombay can be found the Seven Pagodas and the temples of Mahabalipuram. If that is what Abbas set out to tell Indians and Russians, to make a little money for himself, it was certainly not an ambition worthy of a patriotic son of the soil.

To return to Afanasi's travels in India, he goes up to the court of Mahmood Gawan, the Vazeer of Bidar. There he meets Laxmi, the court dancer, and appears at her house near midnight. According to Abbas, this Hindu girl, also falls desperately in love with Afanasi at first sight, as if in 300 and odd millions that inhabited India then, she could not find a single man as dynamic as this bearded Russian. But, perhaps, a Hindu girl can be offered as grist to any mill of lust. Even in Mahmood Gawan's capital, Afanasi does not come across a single Muslim woman of any age or status in life. Does Abbas mean to suggest that Muslim men never had any women of their own and lived on Hindu women all the time?

INSULTING HINDU WOMANHOOD

After an interview with the Vazeer of Bidar, Afanasi turns his face towards home. He again comes peeping into Champa's home and finds her singing a lullaby over her first-born baby. Champa has evidently been married.

And this married Hindu Maharashtrian girl, after getting her own baby, is still shown as pining for her Russian lover. In her lullaby Abbas put the following words: "Us desh jahan barfo ne sej hai sajai, Aaya tha jahan se mera pardesi rahi." And the parents of Champa are shown as hearing her wail for the lost Russian.

We wonder whether Abbas had Nargis pining for Raj Kapoor in his mind or a traditional married Hindu girl of respectable parents—an heiress of a sacred ancient culture—wailing for a stranger? Does Abbas know that Hindu women are supposed to be loyal to their

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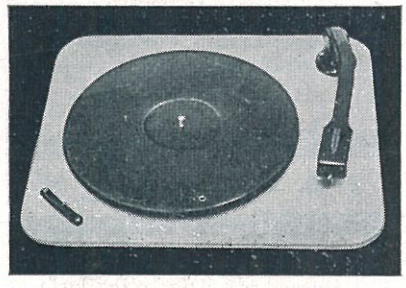

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Quilts can make a crow look as big as an eagle. Dilip Kumar seems to be seeking love and warmth from quilts these days. Let us see what he is doing with a flute in "Kohinoor", a romantic tale produced by Dr. Sinha.

husbands even in thought? Does Abbas know that a traditional Hindu wife prays for the same husband through seven births? A Hindu marriage is not a contract that can be brought to an end in three seconds with three words: "Talaq", "Talaq", "Talaq". It is a bond beyond this world. How could this Aurangzeb of motion pictures toy with the sacred and spiritual sentiment in which a Hindu married woman is wrapped and brought up through ages, by making her pine for a stranger in a state of married motherhood?

Here Afanasi becomes charitable as he discovers that the village was going through a famine. While going away he keeps his purse full of coin on the window presumably to help Champa and her family. Abbas thus measures the man's love for the girl in money and in doing so insults also the poor, honest farmer girl and her family. That was the most unkindest cut of all, as Shakespeare puts it.

Afanasi then arrives at Chaul penniless and is refused passage by the dhow owners. So to compensate for the purse laid on Champa's window, Abbas brings Sakharam on the scene to pass his drum around to collect Afanasi's passage money. Afanasi is at last put on the dhow and a tearful farewell song is sung over him. The song promises a long procession of Russian visitors to our country in years to come, for whom perhaps we must keep our Hindu girls ready and our pennies handy, apart from open arms for embrace.

So the first Russian traveller came to India in 1467 A.D. to fall in love with Champa, a Hindu farmer girl, and to meet Laxmi, the South Indian dancer. He apparently did nothing else according to "Pardesi", produced by Abbas.

On this silly story, without any theme or purpose beyond that of doing some very transparent Communist propaganda the Government of India has invested rupees two lakhs—the loan given to Abbas.

A SPINELESS TRAVELOGUE

If we forget the jumbled background for a while, the picture is beautiful pictorially—colour and photography being neatly executed. The dialogue is written in hybrid Urdu and has the disgusting punctuation of political propaganda. The lyrics are not bad but here again they smell of Communism at places. A couple of songs are well tuned. Manna Dey sings very effectively. The direction is poor—the picture not having even one dramatic moment. The entire picture has been shot as a spineless travelogue. It is surprising that a country which could launch a Sputnik could not synchronise the lip movements of the Russian players with the Indian dialogue.

From the artistes Balraj Sahni easily gives the best performance. He looks his part and does some inspired work particularly when putting over Song No. 4. Nargis plays Champa and reveals plenty of matronly charm. Padmini gives a clumsy dance and loses her opportunity of putting a classic memory in the picture. Oleg as Afanasi looks quite presentable till he opens his mouth and starts speaking. He is a poor actor and his mouth formations while speaking are repulsive. Prithviraj looks his part as the Vazeer and does well. Jairaj has a role which compels the audience to notice the horse which he rides. David's beard looks impressive as the Governor of Junnar. Manmohan Krishna looks a Maharashtrian farmer and reveals a suitable taste in women while choosing Achla as his life-partner.

In short, "Pardesi" is a flop both as a romantic tale and as a travelogue. It is a spineless production with a weak attempt to sell Communism to poor, credulous Indians. The only relieving feature is the scenic frame.

PARDESI

Producers:	Naya Sansar International
Language:	Hybrid Urdu
Screenplay:	Maria Smirnova & K. A. Abbas
Lyrics:	Prem Dhawan & Sardar Jafri
Music:	Anil Biswas
Photography:	Andrikaniz & Ramchandra
Cast:	Nargis, Oleg, Balraj Sahni, Jairaj, David, Achla, Prithviraj, Manmohan Krishna & Padmini.
Released At:	Regal, Bombay
Date of Release:	6th December 1957

Directed By:

K. A. ABBAS & V.M. PRONIN

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OUR REVIEW

"Sharada", A Good Emotional Tale

Prasad Provides Brilliant Directorial Flashes

"Sharada" is a picture which deserves notice in spite of the fact that it has many flaws. It deserves notice for achieving an emotional quality which is all too rarely seen in an Indian picture. It is a picture which succeeds in lifting the spectator from his seat, throwing him into the vortex of its story and carrying him along its quiet but powerful emotional current a longer distance than has been done by many a picture in a long time.

The picture has, of course, many defects. Without those defects it could really be a gem of a film and placed unhesitatingly in one's memory alongside such a film as Debaki Bose's "Vidyapati". But even as it is, "Sharada" quivers with enough emotion to become, in parts, a moving document of the affairs of the human heart.

The story it tells is at once poignant and pathetic and full of irony, frustration and sublimity. And the path the story treads is so delicate that only handling makes all the difference between a touching tale that it is now and a sordid one that it could easily have been with want of proper care in its treatment. There is towards the end a lapse in the refined treatment that the story calls for but that is a matter of detail. In general the story is well handled by the director and succeeds in becoming quite an emotional experience—despite all its microscopic and screaming errors.

TALE OF STIFLED LOVE

The story revolves round Sharada, a quiet, sober, graceful girl working in a nature cure clinic which believes in mud as a good medication and in virtuous living as the key to good health. Sharada is ofcourse full of Geeta and Ramayana, rather flauntingly so, while her hands are full of work in the clinic.

And then the clinic is visited by Shekhar, a jovial youth, who comes accompanying a patient. While the clinic begins to look after his friend Shekhar begins to look at Sharada. He is so impressed by what he sees that he goes all out to make himself lovable to her by all sorts of pranks and tricks. His perseverance pays. Sharada returns his interest in her and the two are soon in love with each other. It is a quiet affair, however, known only to Shekhar's patient-friend and the friend's sister.

Suddenly Shekhar has to go to China "on a cultural delegation" and before starting on the trip he takes a promise from Sharada that she will marry him after his return. But fate now decides to step in and add irony and agony to the lovers' life. The aeroplane carrying Shekhar to China catches fire and Shekhar, the sole survivor of the accident, finds himself in a strange land amongst strange primitive people who diligently begin treating his injuries.

Meanwhile, hearing the news of the accident and believing his son to be dead, Shekhar's rich widower father is too deeply affected by the tragedy and takes to a sick bed. The rest of his children are neglected and his household is upset. Called to the scene to nurse the old man, Sharada not only does that job thoroughly well but also plays an effective mother to the children in the house. Since Shekhar was known at home as Chiranjiv and since all his photographs had been hidden away in order to avoid his father being reminded of his tragedy, Sharada never learns the fact that the widower she is looking after is her lover's father.

That proves to be a fatal bit of ignorance when Sharada in the face of her poor father's persuasion, and convinced that her lover was dead, agrees to bring peace in the old widower's home by marrying him. Soon after the marriage Shekhar returns home and the emotional current in the story gains great momentum. Without first going home Shekhar goes to the clinic where he manages to meet Sharada. Discovering that she had married, but not knowing whom, Shekhar begins giving vent to his frustrated feelings and plaintively asks her why couldn't she wait a little longer. Sharada, with her own agony hidden in her bosom, says that what she had done was her duty. She further tries to calm him and says that she still loved him but that love was of many kinds and every love did not have to end in marriage. She says that love was unselfish and demanded sacrifice and that marriage was an event independent of human will. Sharada's philosophy, however, is lost on Shekhar who creates a noisy scene at last forcing Sharada to slap him and the scene ends without doing any flattery to Shekhar's character.

And now comes the most powerful moment in the picture when Shekhar and Sharada meet face to face in their house and discover for the first time the mercilessly ironical situation fate has plunged them into. It is an electrifying scene, superbly acted and brilliantly directed, and one of the most moving scenes ever seen on a cinema screen. After making the painful discovery, however, Sharada continues to look stoic and serene and blesses Shekhar like a mother. Shekhar, however, looks visibly more staggered by the discovery and takes to drink for more staggering.

The promise shown by the story so far is not kept and practically all that follows is something of an anti-climax. Shekhar at last gives up drink and manages to overcome his emotions to the point where he willingly addresses Sharada as his mother and apparently begins to regard her as one. And on Sharada's suggestion he even gets married to Chanchal, a shallow little girl with a temper and a sharp tongue. Things become once again worse for Shekhar when Chanchal stumbles upon the past relationship between Shekhar and Sharada.

Put them in any dress, they never feel secure. They always look at you as if you are going to kidnap them. Well, the way Vyjayantimala looks who would not like to kidnap her and take her to a Crusoe island? Let us see what she is doing in this dress in "Chand Chakori", a romantic tale produced by P. N. Arora.

Feeling herself neglected by her husband and holding Sharada to be its cause, Chanchal begins making life more difficult for Shekhar and Sharada till in desperation Shekhar leaves home. After some wandering about, however, he is traced and brought back home in a sick condition which begins to get worse as Sharada is not allowed to come within his sight by Chanchal who threatens to reveal the ex-lovers' story to Sharada's husband. In the end Shekhar gets well miraculously while Sharada dies of starvation, having long denied herself food or drink in sympathy with Shekhar.

This is however only the main story. There is another one too which is intended to inject humour into the picture. Loud and completely out of tune with the serious theme of the picture it greatly reduces the emotional appeal of the picture. The picture is then very shaky at start as it is silly in the episode that constitutes its epilogue. And the most serious of faults is the inability of the writer and the director to develop the character of Shekhar more imaginatively and in tune with the emotional key of the picture. That character generally remains too raw to be effective. However, the emotional appeal the picture achieves with all these defects is sufficient to satisfy the compulsorily unfastidious Indian picturegoers.

ABOVE AVERAGE

As a production the picture is above average with good sets, fine photography and clear sound recording. The dialogue reveals more intelligence than our dialogue writers usually do. The music is notably pleasant at least in one song. The direction is not always consistent. In some places it is naive and in some places it is brilliant. On the whole, however, it is a good job.

From the players, Meena Kumari as Sharada easily gives the best performance in the picture and one of the finest performances ever seen anywhere. She lives her role by bringing to it dignity, feeling and correct expression, and there are moments when she succeeds in looking a stifled sigh personified. Raj Kapoor as Shekhar is burdened with a bad role but still he acts better than he has been doing in a long time. Shyama as Chanchal gets a role which does not demand much from her versatile talents. Raj Mehra as Shekhar's father is effective. From the rest Agha in a comic role is his usual self while Anita Guha as his sweetheart shows some talent.

In fine, "Sharada", with all its defects, is a picture with considerable emotional appeal. And it is a picture which deserves to be seen.

SHARADA

Producers:	**Prasad Productions**
Language:	**Hindustani**
Story:	**Sadashiv Brahmam, Panisetty**
Screenplay:	**Inder Raj**
Dialogues:	**Vishwamitra Adil**
Lyrics:	**Rajendra Krishna**
Music:	**C. Ramchandra**
Photography:	**Mukadam**
Cast:	**Meena Kumari, Raj Kapoor, Shyama, Anita Guha, Agha, Raj Mehra and others.**
Released At:	**Eros, Bombay.**
Date of Release:	**29th November 1957**
Directed By:	**PRASAD**

OUR REVIEW

"Nausherwan-e-Adil", Dull & Poor Picture

Sohrab Modi's Iranian Tale From Sewree

In his usual flirtation with historical themes Sohrab Modi this time reaches Iran, the land of his ancestors, and comes up with a tale which has nothing at all Iranian about it except the names of its characters. Depicting the men and matters of 6th century Iran, as "Nausherwan-e-Adil" purports to do, required something more than merely giving the characters names like Naushzad, Hormuzd and Romberzen, some strange costumes to wear, some bombastic pieces of Urdu dialogue to speak and beards to sport on their chins. But that is about all the picture seems to do to emphasize its historical and Iranian character.

The fact is that howsoever close it may be to historical facts, "Nausherwan-e-adil" is a picture which looks hardly any different from the usual run of costume yarns seen on the Indian screen dripping with silly romance and shrill melodramatics. And it shows Sohrab Modi doing once again what he has been seen doing so many times before—mouthing big chunks of claptrap dialogue in a monotonous, theatrical voice without ever allowing his face to drop its profound blankness.

Besides its story looking like a typical unimaginatively concocted yarn of the Indian screen, the picture is poorly directed and rather too shabbily produced for a historical theme. The poor production makes the story look like a tale from Sewree rather than one from Iran. The Iran one sees in it seems to consist mainly of a couple of streets, an unimposing palace, a dirty pond chiefly used as a setting for romance by a pair of lovers and a chapel adjoining the house of a Christian priest. And Nausherwan, the ruler of this unimpressive place, emerges as an equally unimpressive character the way he is portrayed by Sohrab Modi. The picture is thus a poor affair with practically everything about it looking exceedingly commonplace. And it is so boring in addition that one has a hard time keeping the eyelids up.

TALE OF JUSTICE

It is all about Nausherwan, a 6th century ruler of Iran. who, it seems, believed fanatically in the principle that is now enshrined in Article 14 of our Constitution i.e. equality before the law. The picture begins with Nausherwan sitting in his court to hear his subjects' grievances and to dispense justice, a work which seems to occupy most of his time. A woman then comes forward and accuses a youth of having won her love by professing to be a Jew while in fact he was a Christian. Nausherwan finds the youth to be guilty and orders him to be buried alive.

Immediately the sentence is pronounced, David, a Christian priest and healer, enters the court and criticizes Nausherwan's system of justice saying that it was necessary that people should know the law of the land before they could be punished for its violation. Nausherwan accepts the criticism and decides to codify the law. And in due time he gives his country a 12-point code of law.

Now Naushzad, Nausherwan's son from his Christian wife and the heir-apparent, falls in love with Marzia, the daughter of David after pulling her out of a river and getting her revived by David from whom she had drifted away a long time back. The romance depicted between Naushzad and Marzia happens to be a usual silly affair, the only complication about it being that Naushzad does not reveal to her his regal identity and that he gives her his name as Joseph calling himself a Christian.

At last the clandestine love affair is discovered by David who on realizing that his daughter's lover was her saviour Joseph, a Christian, decides to set the seal of marriage on their love. But by now Naushzad's parents also discover

This is the Bhai-Bhai clasp between two nations—India and Russia. Oleg and Balraj Sahni play representative roles in "Pardesi", produced by Naya Sansar International in Sovcolor.

that he is restless after some girl and in order to make him more responsible and more attentive to the affairs of the State, Nausherwan decides to formally proclaim him as his successor.

Naushzad protests against that decision before his mother saying that he earnestly believed in Christianity as his religion and not in the Iranian religion. The mother says that he is supposed to belong to his father's faith and using all the devices of a mother extracts a promise from him that he will never mention himself to be Christian suggesting at the same time that he can proclaim his belief in Christianity after he becomes the ruler.

At his proclamation as the successor to Iran's throne, Naushzad's identity is revealed to Marzia and David and soon David is accusing Naushzad before Nausherwan of the same crime for which the king had earlier ordered a Christian youth to be buried alive. Forbidden by his mother to reveal himself as a true Christian Naushzad is unable to defend himself and Nausherwan does not take much time in doing justice according to his codified law and orders his son to be buried alive.

At this development the queen comes out with the true story after hearing which Nausherwan sets his son free but is

compelled to sentence his wife to life imprisonment for trying to deceive the throne. It all ends with Marzia and Naushzad deciding to unite in death and the distressed Nausherwan abdicating the throne in favour of another relative.

THE STONE FACE

Dull in contents the picture is lustreless in wrapping. The sets are unimpressive. The photography is far from satisfactory. The sound is fairly well recorded. The dialogue fails to excite any interest. The music is quite good in places. The direction is, of course, poor. It reveals little art and less imagination.

From the players, Sohrab Modi in the title role gives another atrociously theatrical performance with a face that beats a piece of stone in immobility. Naseem as the queen is appropriately gentle and graceful. Raj Kumar as Naushzad is tolerable. Mala Sinha as Marzia is quite convincing. Bipin Gupta as David fills the bill in spite of his usual affectedness. From the rest Agha does some crude clowning.

In short, "Nausherwan-e-adil" is a dull and poor picture. It is neither inspiring history nor interesting entertainment. It can be avoided with benefit.

NAUSHERWAN-E-ADIL

Producers:	Minerva Movietone
Language:	Urdu
Story, Screenplay & Dialogue	Shams Lucknowi
Lyrics:	Parwaiz Shamshi
Music:	C. Ramchandra
Photography:	Lateef & Bhandare
Sound:	Keki Eduljee
Cast:	Sohrab Modi, Mala Sinha, Raj Kumar, Bipin Gupta, Naseem, Agha & others.
Released At:	Regal & Minerva, Bombay
Date of Release:	14th November 1957

Directed By:
SOHRAB MODI

OUR REVIEW

"Bhabhi" Sends People Home With Tears

Pandari Bai Gives A Great Performance

"Unlearn'd, he knew no schoolman's subtle art,
No language, but the language of the heart,
By nature honest, by experience wise,
Healthy by temperance, and by exercise."

So sang Pope, the English poet, at the turn of the eighteenth century. It was left to AVM Productions to cast a hero in this mould to prove that character is the dominant note of life and is above genius.

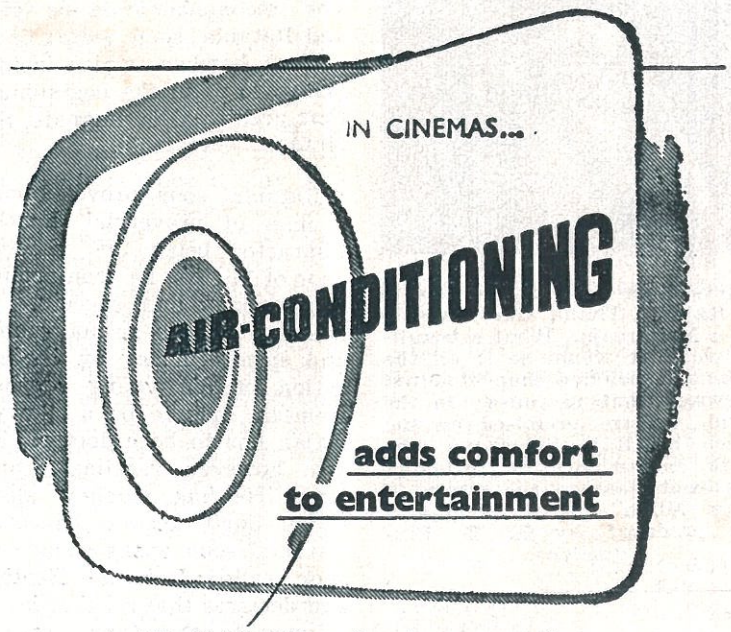
"Bhabhi", produced by AVM, has come at a good time when, under the Congress Government, honesty has become a slave's crime and corruption a king's virtue. If some of those, who were responsible for the recent crore-and-half scandal in the Life Corporation of India, are shown this picture, it is possible to persuade them to believe that virtue is its own reward, be it even at the deathbed of a truly virtuous man.

But motion pictures have to entertain and not merely educate. The medicine has to be coated with a lot of sugar before the illiterate masses would care to swallow it. "Bhabhi" is, therefore, punctuated with a number of dances—in fact almost every one dances in the first half of the picture except the hero and the heroine who carry the theme of the picture on their virtuous shoulders. But when the picture ends, the audience leaves with tears dancing in their eyes, proving that man at heart is still a little god and therefore sensitive to all that is good and godly in life.

The only thing stupid about this picture is its booklet which does not contain the names of the characters as played by the players, forgetting the basic fact that a thematic drama lingers in the memory of people by the names of the characters in the story and not by the names of the players who also work in several other pictures. The publicity department of AVM is evidently run by congenital idiots as a negligence like this is unpardonable in an art that is wedded to business.

A DOMESTIC DRAMA

The story opens in a village home with an elderly villager lying on his deathbed. The sands are fast running out. He asks his widowed sister to call all his sons. They are four: Ratanlal, Ramesh, Rajan and Baldev. The eldest Ratanlal is



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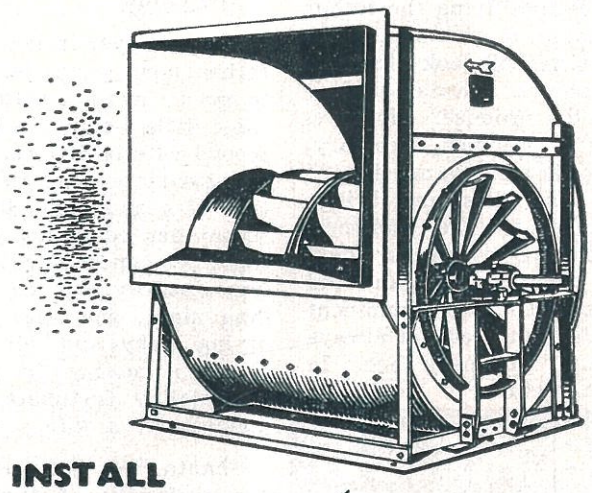

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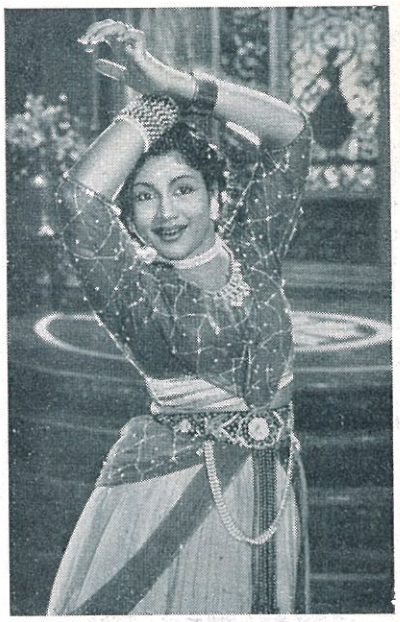

Believe it or not but this one is a "Raja". Thank God, she is not a Maharooja. What a beautiful world it would be if all the Rajas had such fine shop-windows! Anyway what we miss in the world, we are promised on the screen by Raja Sulochana, the South Indian Sputnik, bringing new excitement to the screen in "Piya Milan", a thrilling love tale produced by R. R. Productions.

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a lad of about fifteen years. The youngest is about five years old. They have no mother, nor money. Before dying the father asks Ratanlal to give him a promise that he will look after his little brothers. Ratanlal does not give the promise. He says, "Why is a promise necessary, father, to do what is my duty?" The old man dies and brings some relief to the audience. Motion picture producers would do well to select clean and gentle faces for their imminent corpses. Death need not always have a dirty and ugly face. In a motion picture it would be worthwhile to lend it a little gloss of art. For, death is another birth and there is no sense in making it unnecessarily ghastly.

Fifteen-year-old Ratanlal becomes a father overnight to a family of three little brothers and a widowed aunt. It is the beginning of his manhood. There is no money in the family to invest on education. Education comes after bread. And in this unfortunate family the bread was missing.

Ratanlal goes to an old lawyer-friend of his father. The old lawyer offers to educate Ratanlal. He offers to tear off the promissory note for Rs. 1000, a loan which Ratanlal's father had taken. Ratanlal stops him from doing both. He asks him for a recommendation to some cloth merchant from whom he can take some cloth to hawk in the streets and thereby earn an honest living. The recommendation is given and Ratanlal soon begins life as a cloth hawker—which incident brings to mind the beginning of that great textile magnate, Seth Mafatlal Gagalbhai.

Ratanlal soon proves himself a man of proverbial honesty. Character being the sheet-anchor of his life, he soon acquires both money and success. He looks after his orphan family and spends money on the education of his young brothers. Ramesh has to be a lawyer. Rajan has to be a doctor. Baldev, however, remains a problem. He has monkey glands which don't absorb education. Ratanlal soon opens a big cloth shop called Ratanlal Brothers and declares that all that he has belongs to the four brothers. He gets married but his wife dies leaving behind a baby boy in the cradle.

The lawyer-friend of his father now persuades Ratanlal to marry again for the good of the little child. Ratanlal's second wife is Shanta, a university graduate, with the pleasant face of a goddess. She doesn't reveal her education to embarrass her uneducated husband unnecessarily but on her wedding night, she hugs the little crying baby and for ever becomes a mother to the child. Ratanlal is fortunate to get a goddess for a wife.

Shanta, the new bride, inherits a family of three young brothers of her husband, an old aunt of his and his little son. Shanta's young sister, Lata, a child-widow, also lives with the family. It is a ready-made household which this little goddess turns into a temple of devotion. She becomes a devoted mother to all, the little child calling her mother and the husband's brothers calling her Bhabhi.

Years pass and prosperity comes to this virtuous family. Ramesh becomes a lawyer. Rajan is struggling in a medical college to the rhythm of a rock 'n roll. Baldev and Lata, both in their adolescence, keep themselves busy with monkey tricks. It is all smile and laughter.

Then come the marriages. After the usual tangles, Ramesh makes a love-marriage with Tara, the daughter of the rich lawyer-friend. Rajan saves the character of his brother's promise by marrying Mangala, the only daughter of Ratanlal's poor accountant. Though married against his will, Rajan makes a genuine attempt to make the marriage a success but Mangala is a quarrelsome hussy with a poisonous tongue. She shows her fangs on the honeymoon night and Rajan, heartbroken leaves the bedroom and takes to a man's other sweetheart, wine.

Mangala proceeds with her devilish design and soon poisons the mind of Tara who begins life well but ultimately, being poisoned and goaded by Mangala, ruins the unity and harmony of the family. Her scheming brother does the rest during the absence of his father at Banaras. Rajan, unable to get along with the snake wedded to him, turns his amateur flirtation with the bottle into a professional devotion.

Ratanlal is persuaded to hand over all the business affairs to Ramesh and Ramesh acting under the tutelage of the evil-minded Jeevan, Tara's brother, takes all the cash and impoverishes the other brothers. Ratanlal leaves for his village home with his wife, son, aunt and Lata to live in poverty.

Mangala, who had set the ball rolling, is soon deceived by Jeevan and thrown out of the house. Rajan takes up military service to qualify himself to appear before his virtuous brother. Tara, with a new-born baby in her home, now misses Shanta, her virtuous sister-in-law.

Shanta, Ratanlal's virtuous wife, goes through all these vicissitudes with a divine smile. But the smile dissolves into tears when she sits by the side of her dying husband. He was dying because the family hasn't even money to buy medicines. But before dying he takes a promise from his virtuous wife to effect a reconciliation between Rajan and Mangala and to get Baldev and Lata married. Ratanlal's impending death brings the climax and the repentant phase of the story. One by one every one comes back to the fold and as the lost sheep flock round the bed, Ratanlal shuffles off his mortal coil.

Rajan arrives late only to dissolve himself into tears at the feet of his virtuous, widowed Bhabhi—the Goddess Shakti who in her divine love embraced both the saint and the sinner with her eternal smile and generosity. The story ends leaving woman, the mother of man, on the altar of divinity.

TRIUMPH OF PANDARI BAI

Though the projection at the Swastik was not quite happy, the theatre probably not using a high intensity arc, the production values of the picture are obviously of the usual high standard associated with AVM. The dialogue is appropriate and the songs have rhythm in words and music. The story drags a bit in its first half suffering from a generosity of unnecessary dances but in the second half it quickly recovers its theme and drama bathing the climax in the tears of the audience. For their first attempt, the two self-effacing directors—Krishnan and Panju—could be said to have done a good job of the picture. They deserve every encouragement.

From the players Pandari Bai easily captivates the heart with her classic performance as Bhabhi. She lives the role and in doing so sets up a lofty ideal for the women of India to follow. Her portrayal of the traditional Indian womanhood creates an altar of worship. Her face, her eyes and her voice—all deserve to be bathed in tears of filial devotion. As a supreme symbol of divine motherhood, she lends a rare dignity to the screen. We would like to see more of this superb artiste.

Balraj Sahni plays Ratanlal with such feeling emotion

throughout that one almost shares his sighs and smiles. It is a superb performance—at once natural and effective.

Shyama gives a good account of herself as Tara. She looks pretty and her curves punctuate the tedium created in the early half of the picture. Nalini is another one that attracts attention as Mangala. She has the necessary fury. Raja Gosavi is versatile as usual. He has a noisy but sympathetic role which he overdramatizes at places. Others don't count, except the Alsatian dog which showed more intelligence than many artistes put together.

In short, "Bhabhi" is a picture which needs a little patience in the beginning. But if you wait till the end you will take only tears home. The picture is eminently suitable for family audiences.

BHABHI

Producers: **AVM Productions**
Language: **Hindustani**
Dialogue & Lyrics: **R. Krishnan**
Music: **Chitragupta**
Photography: **Maruthi Rao**
Audiography: **Bose & Ramanathan**
Cast: **Pandari Bai, Balraj Sahni Shyama, Raja Gosavi, Anwar Hussain, Agha, Bhagwan, etc.**
Released At: **Swastik, Bombay**
Date of release: **20th December, 1957.**
Directed By:
KRISHNAN & PANJU

OUR REVIEW

"Lal Batti", A Good Story Badly Directed

An Opportunity Missed To Present Thrilling Entertainment

"Lal Batti", produced by writer Rajindar Singh Bedi and scripted and co-directed by actor Balraj Sahni, is an offbeat suspense story as can be discovered by any picturegoer who is strong enough to endure the most boring first hour of the picture and patient enough to sit through it to the end. It is a picture which can be called satisfactory only if we apply to it the principle, all's well that ends well.

A decade too late to be topical, "Lal Batti" tells the grim story of a ruthless, inhuman gang of criminals who on the eve of India's independence, engage in large-scale gun-running in order to make some quick money by supplying wagon-loads of arms and ammunition to Hindu and Muslim fanatics and thus by aiding and abetting them to spill human blood by tons. The picture shows how a C.I.D. officer helps in wiping out the gang and it then says that people who aided and abetted communal riots were neither Muslims nor Hindus but heinous criminals with crime as their only religion and money as their only altar.

Seeing that millions were killed during the partition riots giving rise to rivers of blood, the story seems to be as plausible as it is sensational. Such a gruesome carnage could not have been staged without large-scale gun-running and gun-runners are notoriously mercenary. The story is thus not only believable and interesting but serves a social purpose as well.

The trouble, however, is that the whole story is discovered suddenly towards the end and till then the spectator is generally asked to submit his patience to a severe test. Specially the first hour of the picture is so dull and silly that it is quite likely that many a picturegoer would have left the theatre by the time the story begins to get interesting. Had the picture been as interestingly developed as it is concluded, it could have become one of the most effective tales of suspense. But that is not done and an opportunity is lost to serve some thrilling entertainment on the anaemic Indian screen.

TALE OF GUN-RUNNERS

The picture begins by showing a metre-guage train making its ridiculous progress on its narrow tracks. The day is 14th of August in 1947 and among the passengers on the train are Jagdish and Sheela, a young couple eloping with the idea of getting married in Delhi on the Independence Day, a short, spare blackmarketeer who is rushing with his big and sharp-tongued wife to Delhi where he hopes to do roaring business selling khadi caps and national flags, a middle-aged British woman full of superior airs and in a hurry to catch the first plane home from Delhi, her crawling attendant and Jugal, a noisy antics-displaying peddler who is in reality a disguised C.I.D. officer.

After quite a few reels have been devoted to showing the silly antics of Jugal aboard the train, which he manages to delay by once pulling its chain, their train reaches a tiny station where the Delhi-bound passengers expect a connecting train. But the passengers discover that the connecting train has been missed and are forced to seek shelter for the night at the station as there is no other train till morning. The station-master however seems not at all pleased to allow the stranded passengers to remain at the station. But when they insist on spending the night there, the station-master tells them the story of a train accident that had occurred there some time ago and further tells them that the place was haunted by the ghosts of the accident victims. The station-master then goes away.

Some of the passengers believe the ghost-story, some don't and soon things start happening that for a while tend to make both the passengers and the audience realize that there was certainly a lot eerie about the place. The ghostly affair goes on for some time till Jugal rips open the ghostly curtain to reveal that it was all one long conspiracy between the station-master and the other criminals to keep the passengers inside the waiting room so that the criminals could safely load a train with arms and ammunition. In the end, which reverberates with gun-shots exchanged between the criminals and the forewarned police, the criminals are caught or killed and the passengers heave a sigh of relief.

The production values are very poor which is another factor in the story losing much of its interest. The sets are crude and unconvincing generally. The photography is rather ugly. The sound recording is erratic. The dialogue is serviceable. The lyrics are none-too-interesting and so is the music. The direction is good in places but generally dull and amateurish.

From the players, Balraj Sahni as Jugal is tolerably good. Mala Sinha as Sheela and Jawahar Kaul as Jagdish make a convincing pair of lovers. Rashid Khan as the blackmarketeer and Kamal as his wife fill the bill. The old timer Sulochana as the tongue-rolling British lady is enjoyable if not always convincing. The man who plays her servant is effective. From the rest, Shashikala as another character seems to do well in a rather confusing role.

In short, "Lal Batti" is a good story badly directed. And the price one has to pay for discovering the interesting story and the interesting climax is over an hour's sheer boredom.

LAL BATTI

Producers: **Cine Cooperative Ltd.**
Language: **Hindustani**
Screenplay & Dialogue: **Balraj Sahni**
Lyrics: **Majrooh Sultanpuri**
Music: **Salil Chowdhari**
Photography: **K. Vaikunth**
Sound: **M. R. Pitale**
Cast: **Balraj Sahni, Mala Sinha, Shashikala, Jawahar Kaul, Kamal, Rashid Khan, Sulochana, etc.**
Released At: **Imperial, Bombay**
Date of Release: **29th November 1957**
Directed By:
BALRAJ SAHNI & KRISHNA CHOPRA

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WOES AND ECHOES

A good nose is all the beauty of a woman. It also an index to her character and the symbol of her reputation. Does it need a nose ring to make it more attractive? But the nose ring is an invitation to the bachelors around. Let one who dares remove it. Shyama, one of our prettiest artistes, gives a thrilling performance in "Mai Baap", a domestic drama produced and directed by M. Sadiq.

BLIND WITH JEALOUSY

"'Judas' writing under "Our Country Needs Success" in the November issue of "Filmindia" makes a shocking and painful revelation of our glamourously beautiful film world with an inner world ugly with hatred, jealousy, bickerings and blackmail utterly lacking in charity, generosity and goodwill. That a film maker of Mehboob's calibre who has given us "Mother India" —a milestone in film production and film art, should have been a target makes a very sad reading indeed.

"The unique achievements of Mehboob are not just a fairy tale. His success story is a long journey of trials and tragedies, storm and strain through a long span of the last 30 years. He had to go through a million vicissitudes to translate his dreams into realities and earn for himself an enviable niche which he occupies today in our film industry. As the first Indian film producer he placed the Indian film industry on the world map, planting India's flag in all countries of the world with his single picture "Aan".

"Mehboob's latest offering "Mother India" is a saga of our rural India in which is enshrined the image of its laughter and tears, its sunshine and shadow and its colourful glory through ages. A memorable film which will carry India's message beyond its borders to more people and more countries than a hundred other pictures put together deserves our glorious tribute and its maker Mehboob, our gratitude.

"Mehboob's name today spells a symbol of phenomenal success. But as is well known in the film world, his achievements attained through a hard stormy struggle have not made him vain. His is a life humbly dedicated to prayers and implicit faith in Allah. Such a life deserves our befitting homage of due felicitations and not a filthy tirade of uncharity, hatred, bickerings and personal jealousies—all amounting to "vicious scandal" as 'Judas' aptly puts it. Will our film folks pause and think over this?"

BOMBAY. **M. G. Bhagat.**

DISGUSTED SINDHI SPEAKS

"I am deeply impressed by 'Judas's' "Profits Of Distress" in the November 1957 issue of "Filmindia". He, whosoever he may be, undoubtedly knows his job. Congratulations for publishing such a timely warning!

"Every Sindhi would be grateful for the very compassionate views expressed by 'Judas' and will be proud to think that at least one in 360 millions is with us in our plight, while local people jeer at us wherever we go.

"By what he calls the "Housing Racket" and describes it in its true colours, shall I hope it will kindle the flame of hatred in every Sindhi for such unjust means? This has really brought shame and disgrace to the community as a whole. It is high time that we realised the hardships of others.

"In addition to the legislative measures suggested, it is also essential that the moral attitude of people should be alerted to the evils of such unjust means. All the so-called Sindhi Welfare Associations (and

The various exercises of love keep a man young for many years. All that he needs is a different gymnasium every time, for the spice of these exercises is in their infinite variety. Ashok Kumar still seems to thrill Madhubala in "Ek Saal", a sensational love tale produced by Goel Cine Corporation.

there are plenty of them) should undertake to educate the masses in this direction and must condemn those in society who resort to such disgraceful means. A Sindhi."

BOMBAY. **M. T. Shivdasani.**

BASTARD COMBINATION

"One was amazed to see the posters that were published in Urdu by the Delhi Transport Authority on the eve of the Road Safety Week during November 1957. At the top of the poster was printed 'Road Safety Hafta' in Urdu (just a mixture of English and Urdu) and in the centre was written 'Hamara Adarsh' in Urdu (just pure Hindi).

"It is not understood as to how such a ridiculous idea could come in the minds of the authorities concerned. It would have been better if the use of the words of only one language was made. This is something like an individual wearing an English pant, an Indian kurta and a Turqi cap at one and the same time. Is it not ridiculous, Mr. Patel?"

DELHI. **Jagdish Jain.**

BABEL OF CONFUSION

"This happened in the Rajya Sabha in November 1957. A news item, dated November 18, 1957, said, "The high-flown Sanskritised Hindi of an Uttar Pradesh member, Mr. Amolakh Chand, stumped the Prime Minister and some other Hindi-knowing members in the Rajya Sabha when he put a long supplementary in Hindi on a question regarding the Nagas.

"The perplexed Deputy Minister, Mrs. Menon said, she could not understand the question, and when the Prime Minister got up to reply, several members wanted to know the meaning of the question.

"Even I have not understood it fully", confessed the Prime Minister, "but I am prepared to give an answer". The member then repeated his question in English."

"Well, I think, we had better retain English to understand Hindi, our national language! What do you say?"

BANGALORE. **J. B. William.**

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Your editorial "The Blind Bride Of Law" in the November 1957 issue of "filmindia" reveals your thorough study of the Income Tax Act and its strange application to different persons in various states. It sounds like a joke that the same Central Law is applicable to one person of a state in one form and to another person of the other state in a second form.

Rulers in brute majority as they are, legislate law according to their wishes and requirements. Have they not amended our Constitution so many times?

"The protector of freedom of a citizen in a free country is the highest tribunal of justice and the same being the trustee and the father of the Constitution, guarantees all citizens, freedom on equal terms without any sort of distinction. The citizen seeks remedy in that Court—which is the guardian of the laws of the land, of freedom and injustice and misbehaviour done to him either by a person or a state. If that Court does not allow him fair play, the citizen will definitely go to hell once and for all.

"Your article gives sufficient food for thought not only to lawyers and barristers but also to legislators and the judges of big courts as well."

MAINPURI. **Vir B. S. Chauhan.**

CONGRESS DICTATORSHIP

"I have read with remorse your editorial "The Blind Bride Of Law" and "In Nehru's 'Welfare' State". I agree entirely with you. We are living under a reign of terror. The way things are moving, we shall have achieved complete fascism in another 20 years of Congress rule. The freedom we have won is only for the ruling party so that they may ride on power and massacre the masses. The real freedom of India has yet to be won.

"I am convinced that we had better die fighting for that real freedom".

NEW DELHI. **Onkar Dayal.**

NOT IN NEAR FUTURE

"You have done well in your editorial "The Blind Bride Of Law" in putting forth the plea for a just and democratic revision of old hide-bound slave laws of the British regime so as to have an element of human justice in them.

"At this juncture, I am reminded of Maxwell Knight who once observed. "It is always interesting to me to reflect that when animals dish out correction it is always done immediately the offence is committed. There is never any delayed action. I think this is a point where the human race might take example." Let us see if our Congressmen do this at least after reading your editorial?"

MADRAS. **K. A. K. Ayyangar.**

SWALLOWING WITH SMILES

"Anyone who reads 'The Blind Bride Of Law' and "In Nehru's 'Welfare' State" will become despondent and a dumb agony will gnaw his heart. The feeling that within ten years of freedom the Congress has deteriorated beyond recognition makes it all the more poignant.

"But a glance at the Editor's Mail section suddenly drives off the heavy fog and once again the mind becomes light and cheerful. One wonders how you keep up your contagious sense of humour in spite of all this harassment. May your sense of humour light up many a sullen heart!"

CALCUTTA. **P. S. Easwaran.**

INJECTING A CONSCIENCE

"Let me congratulate you on your bold and fearless editorial entitled "The Blind Bride Of Law". After going through this, I felt that only a journalist like you can rise above the wrong policies of the Government. As a matter of fact I have always been admiring your editorials, but this one appears to be quite different. I do hope it will wake up the 'Kumbhakarans' of our Government.

"It is not too late for the Government to follow the policy framed by you with regard to the taxation thus getting more money for the implementation of the second Five-Year Plan.

"I pray to the Almighty for the removal of this devilish idea of sending you to jail, from the heads of the tax authorities and to fill them with some wise thoughts."

AJMER. **D. B. Arya.**

USEFUL OUT OF JAIL

"Your November 1957 editorial "The Blind Bride Of Law" is yet another fact-revealing editorial which is needed badly for both the Congressmen and the starving millions.

"The editorial in combination with your income tax case, details of which are published elsewhere in the said issue, gives the necessary emphasis and enlightens the future victims of the "blind law".

"It is a pity that our laws are still lacking in justice. We have, however, some

hopes with a man of your calibre. May God help you to remain out of jail!"

HYDERABAD. **S. Vishwanath.**

MY SYMPATHETIC READERS

"I was much grieved to learn from your article 'In Nehru's 'Welfare' State' that you have been put to all sorts of harassment by the Income Tax authorities. Those of us who have been your readers for years know that you have proved yourself to be a man of integrity and character.

"But unfortunately, in our so-called 'Welfare' State with a lot of unquestionable nepotism and corruption prevailing in the official circles, only the honest suffer. One thing is certain that truth always triumphs and honesty always pays. Your readers are with you in your suffering, for you have done great things which our Five-Year Plans have not done and that is, kept us cheerful on empty stomachs.

"Remember, dear editor, your readers are always ready if you permit them to raise a fund to help you. May God give you the peace of mind, and the necessary strength and courage in your hard struggle against heavy odds!

"I wish you all success."

BANGALORE. **J. B. William.**

THANKS!

"I received the November issue of 'Filmindia' well in time as usual. When I read "In Nehru's 'Welfare' State" I was shocked to note that you have been put to distress by the Income Tax authorities for reasons best known to them.

"Your days of distress will soon pass away leaving behind only a bitter memory of the harassment. Your indomitable courage will help you to fight for justice. I am definite you will come out successful in the end.

"Please note that my good wishes and heartfelt sympathies are always with you.

"I pray to the Almighty to keep you hale and hearty till your mission of life is completed on this planet."

MAINPURI. **Vir B. S. Chauhan.**

SMALL-HEARTED PATRIOTS

"Anyone who witnessed the Shakespearean drama 'Othello', on November 19, 1957, at the Museum Theatre in Madras, would not have failed to notice the following incident. The drama was sponsored by the British Council and was enacted by the available talent of India and England. The proceedings commenced with the singing of the Indian National Anthem followed by the English National Anthem. The audience stood in attention when the Indian National Anthem was played and sat down immediately the British National Anthem commenced. The few Europeans in the audience stood in attention throughout the entire proceedings, vindicating their regard and respect for both the National Anthems.

"Mind you, the Museum theatre is a place which is always visited by the high-ups and the elite of the city. This city of Madras which Nehru always describes as the intellectual centre of India, ceased to be intellectual, cultural, and civilized, at least temporarily, for its residents failed to show reverence to the National Anthem of a friendly country, even as a mark of courtesy.

"In contrast, the few Europeans who were in the audience showed full respect to the Indian National Anthem.

"But in a province that burns the Constitution of India, destroys pictures of Gandhi, clips off Brahmins' sacred thread and tufts, anything could happen!"

DONAKONDA. **A. Raghavan.**

YES, UNDER EZRA'S EYE

" 'Mandu'—one of the tourist centres of Madhya Pradesh—is the subject matter of Films Division's latest documentary which I saw recently. Produced by Ezra Mir with words and voice of Zul Vellani, the film is a beautiful short on this city of joy which any lover of beauty would thrill to see. Kudos to Producer Ezra Mir with a suggestion that the film be flown to our embassies and legations for being shown abroad. By the way, is our Films Division improving?"

MADRAS. **S. A. Hasnath.**

IT TAKES TIME

"The Government of Bombay recently announced the exemption from entertainment tax for the two pictures: "Do Ankhen Barah Haath" and "Mother India". And the benefit of this exemption will directly go to their respective producers. There is nothing new in this policy for the credit should go to "filmindia". It was in the 'filmindia' of July 1954, page 12, in the column "Bombay Calling" that you wrote:— "Four tolas of gold or silver cannot turn chronic bankrupts into active bankers. Quite a few of our producers consume four-tola-gold worth of whiskey in a single evening. These amusing tokens are not going to encourage our film producers to improve their film standards or their personal character. But the story would be different if the Government announces that the winner of the Gold medal would be given a full refund of the Entertainment Tax collected all over the country on the award winning film and half of the entertainment tax on the picture winning the silver medal."

"Mr. Patel, the Government of Bombay has at last acted on your thoughtful and valuable suggestions put forward in the said issue. What about the other states? Will they follow suit?"

ROHTAK. **M. P. Bhanot.**

Helen's knee-cap doesn't present a pretty shape. It takes away the glamour from the rest of her. A dancing artiste should not wear a transparent dress with a bandaged knee. Anyway let us see what this smart dancer does in "Khazanchi", a social theme.

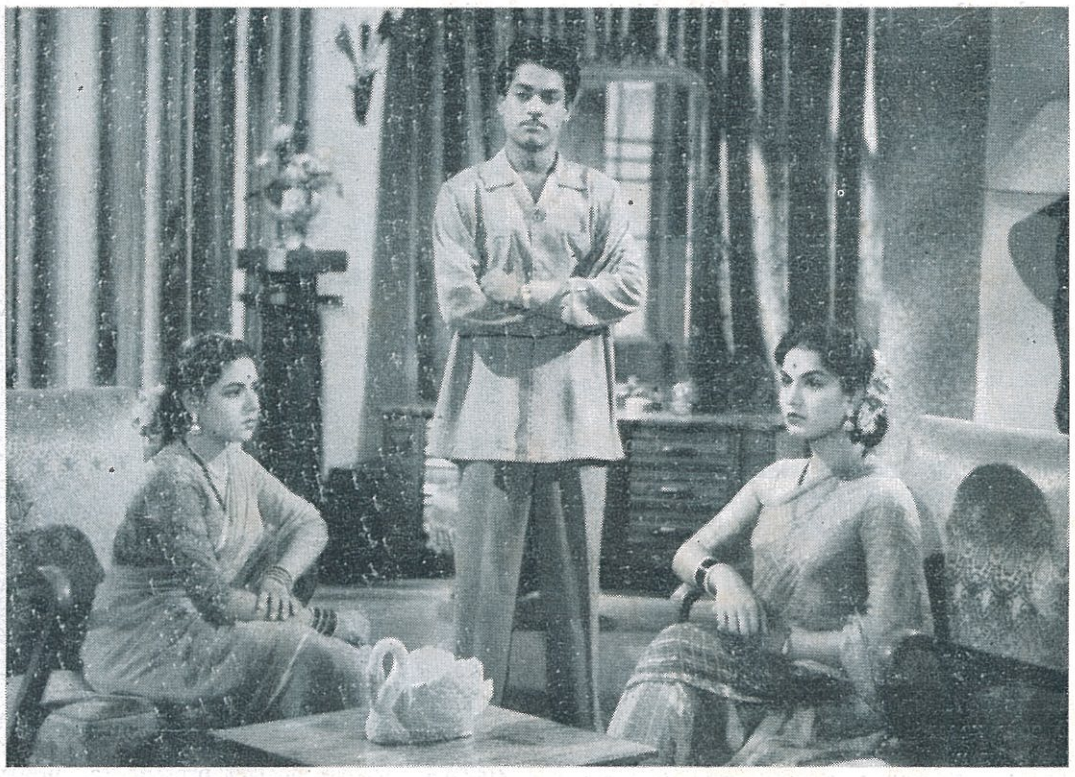
BLINDED BY PROFITS

"While replying to the question: 'Are not the programmes of Radio Ceylon too full of commercial advertisements that become disgusting at times?' asked by a reader from Indore, you have written as under:—

'At times? I think they are disgusting all the times. I have not yet come across one person who has bought the products advertised. The very fact that the programmes become disgusting proves that the intrusion of commercial announcements disturbs the musical ears of the listener, who wants music and not a tooth paste.'

"In remarking thus, you have only expressed the unpleasant experience of many. What you say about Radio advertisements is equally applicable to cinema advertisements also. The filmgoer, who visits the theatre in order to gain a few hours of easy time and enjoyment, is told in the auditorium again and again about the wonderful qualities of this stuff, and that stuff, about which he has seen and heard umpteen times before. It is all nauseating and intolerable.

"It is not incumbent upon the theatre management, I suppose, to show such advertisements and it can refrain from doing so, just to avoid some annoyance to the filmgoer. If that cannot be done, at least it can have certain restrictions, e.g., it need not show the same advertisement



When women become cats, they make it impossible for even a dog to live in the family, leave alone a young, lively man. Jagdeep is evidently between the devil and the deep sea when he faces Nalini and Shyama in "Bhabhi", a pathetic tale produced by AVM.

about one and the same thing for months together. The period of such torture may well be reduced to a week or two.

"But will the thatre management care for the refined sensibility of the filmgoer and pay heed to such a suggestion?"

POONA. **K. Ponnusamy.**

JEALOUSY BRINGS SUCCESS

"What you have described under the caption: "Our Country Needs Success", seems to be the shameful behaviour of some of the black sheep in the film industry towards the success of Mr. Mehboob Khan. The disgusting and clumsy methods adopted by these to belittle and harm a great picture like "Mother India" makes me feel that these black sheep in the industry can stoop to anything low. In this context the action of the Bombay Government in recognizing the greatness of the picture "Mother India" by granting it exemption from entertainment tax comes as a refreshing jasmine fragrance.

"And the idea that the tax collected thus will be refunded to the producer makes me even happier. But for you we would not have known that such criminals existed.

SECUNDERABAD. **N. V. Prahlad.**

HEARTLESS PROFITEERING

"I saw the first show of Mehboob's 'Mother India' in a local cinema-hall on the day it was released here. Needless to say, the picture drew tremendous crowds. But I was shocked to find that the cinema-owners exploited the picture by employing the most deplorable manoeuvres.

"Firstly, in the hall was thrust an audience at least half as much as the total capacity of the house. The hall was packed with extra seats leading to choky suffocation and congestion, completely ignoring all conditions of sanitation and ventilation.

"To add insult to injury, most of the IInd class seats were turned into Ist class ones; while many of the IIIrd class ones were converted to IInd class ones.

"And to crown it all, the management did not issue tickets for the IIIrd class even when the show had started and the newsreel and the advertisement shorts had been screened, with the result that most of those keen picturegoers were forced to purchase IInd class tickets, literally turning more of their geese into swans. Also, all those people missed the newsreel and the shorts.

"Isn't it open prostitution of a fine piece of art, Mr. Patel?"

AMBALA. **M. Krishan.**

HALF-BAKED PUDDING

"Every radio listener knows that palatable programmes are rarely put on Dr. Keskar's menu of the A.I.R. Poetical symposiums, if and when not contrived to sell off the chimeric Five-Year Plan, provide some of the finest entertainment, especially to listeners interested in literature. Such symposiums, no doubt, are a very costly affair and therefore cannot be presented every now and then. But how regrettable it is that Dr. Keskar serves even that little savoury fare in an impaired manner and spoils the whole show!

"The trouble is that when the symposium has been broadcast for, say an hour and a half, the announcer says, "Well, the Mushaira will continue here. We take you back to our studio", and the symposium is tuned off. So they tickle your nostrils for the pudding, allow you to taste it, and then snatch it away. It is all the more irksome as the open Mushaira (on requests) is the most interesting and attractive part of it and still one cannot enjoy it fully.

"Not only does it irritate the listeners but also it does not fully exploit the funds allotted for the item. Can't they pay the announcer some extra money for his overtime, when they can spend such a large sum on the symposium itself?"

AMBALA. **M. Krishan.**

A GRATEFUL SINDHI

"Now that the Sindhi programme is being relayed on every Saturday at 5.30 P.M., the Sindhis are very grateful to the radio authorities, who by relaying Sindhi programmes have given the Sindhis an opportunity of hearing Sindhi folk songs, dramas, speeches, etc. Sindhis have a rich culture and tradition of their own. But the time allotted for the programme is too short.

"Can't the radio authorities extend it from half-an-hour to an hour?"

NEW DELHI. **Nanik Madnani.**

YAGNA FIENDS

"It is reported in the Press that 500 sadhus are expected to attend the Shri Panchadev Maha Yagna scheduled to be held in a specially-erected pandal as Cross Maidan, Bombay, from November 24 to December 5. Swami Sarwanandji, sponsor of the Yagna, declared that 21 tins of ghee were proposed to be burnt in the Yagna. The Yagna is expected to cost about one lakh of rupees.

"Swamiji claims, "The Yagnas purify the minds and the hearts of the people and give impetus to benevolent activities. Malicious and dangerous environments created by H and A bombs necessitate such Yagnas. It can turn enemies into friends." It is beyond my reasoning and comprehension how the burning of ghee and such things can purify the human minds and hearts. And when the country is passing through an economic crisis is it advisable to waste enormous amounts on such dubious and useless rites?

"Most of the present day sadhus lack the spiritual glow of old saints. Their existence usually depends on the gullibility of the illiterate masses."

BOMBAY. **Jaikishan Bhagat.**

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